The China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

TO-DAY'S DOLLAR. — The closing rate of the dollar on demand, to-day was 11d.

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TRAMWAY COMPANY'S BUS LOSSES

DISCOURAGING REPORT

UNIFIED CONTROL URGED FOR THE KOWLOON SERVICES.

A FRANCHISE SUGGESTED

At the annual meeting of the Hong Kong Tramways, Limited, held this morning in the Board room of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Mr. A. B. Stewart, who took the chair, whilst sounding a more cheerful note as to the profits and traffic on the Company's trams during the year, regretted to report substantial losses on the bus services operated both in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

The losses were particularly disturbing on the subsidiary Kai Tack routes in Kowloon, where the deficit on the year's working was over $47,000. The Chairman attributed this to a greatly increased price of petrol, augmented by the petrol tax, the increased seating accommodation tax, and the high charges on the service, due to the unfavourable rate of exchange.

TOO MANY COMPANIES

It was his opinion that it would never be economical or profitable to run buses on the Hong Kong side alongside of the Company's trams. As regards Kowloon, the position was chaotic, with so many competing companies. He pleaded that the time had come for a system of unified control, together with the grant of a franchise of not less than twenty years, the grantees to have the option of running either trolley vehicles or Diesel-engine buses, or both, if necessary, in conjunction with petrol buses.

Mr. T. E. Pearce, seconding the motion, asked for an early examination of the Kowloon traffic problem, so as to arrive at a cheaper and better system of transport for residents of the Peninsula.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report and accounts, said:—

In the chairman's speech last year you were told that receipts were less than in the previous year by nearly three lakhs. On this occasion I can sound a more cheerful note. Not only are the traffic receipts up by over a lakh but—in spite of the serious decline in the value of the dollar—the gross working profit is up by nearly $28,000. The number of miles run—3,020,295—was the greatest in the history of the company and the passengers carried (approximately 29,000,000) show an increase of about two millions on the previous year.

From the foregoing, it may reasonably be presumed that the year under review has witnessed a distinct turn of the tide and that those "adverse factors" referred to last year by my predecessor in this chair have largely disappeared.

the factors contributing most sub-

In the opinion of your Board stantially towards these improved prospects are:—

(a) The big work of fitting saloon top covers to all tramcars has now been completed.

(b) The reconstruction of the track between Arsenal Street and Causeway Bay has also been completed.

(c) So much of the old obsolete single track on the Shaukiwan section has been doubled that little more than a mile of single track remains. This enables us to operate a 4-minutes' service on this route—a service which was physically impossible under the old single track conditions.

(d) The new township which is rapidly appearing on the Praya East Reclamation.

At this stage it is perhaps not out of place to quote from the annual report of the General Manager where he says:—

"During my recent leave I inspected a number of City Transport Systems in Canada and Britain in addition to visiting New York, Berlin and Cologne and I am happy to say that the Hong Kong Tramway system compares very favourably with the majority of tramways I saw elsewhere. This particularly applies to the condition of the track and the appearance of the rolling stock."

Loss On Buses.

As regards the operation of your company's motor buses, however, the report I have to make is not a favourable one.

After providing for depreciation your motor-buses last year were run at a loss of $21,665. As is well-known, these are run in direct competition with our tramcars. There is a parallel case in the much larger city of Liverpool where the Corporation is reported to have lost £80,000 on the operation of its motor-buses last year. The following extract from the Tramway and Railway World of November 1 is an interesting commentary on the position:—

"Sir Thomas White declared that the tramways manager had not advocated the purchase of omnibuses, which certain speakers had condemned; he had been overridden. It could not be too strongly insisted that omnibuses could never be made to pay while tramways were run at the present low fares, and no one had the temerity to propose an increase in tramway fares. In the course of a long discussion, Mr. F. C. Wilson, chairman of the Tramways Committee, quoted figures showing that omnibus fares in Liverpool were lower than in Merseyside and other boroughs and yet those other boroughs could not make their omnibuses pay. Omnibuses, when run against tramways, would always be run at a loss. Mr. Wilson cited a list of charges that had to be set against the revenue from omnibuses and concluded with an allusion to those bus engineers who are trying to "kid us" that they can run buses at a profit."

Apart from the above I have no particular knowledge of Liverpool but I do know that with the present cost of tyres, petrol, etc., we cannot, in Hong Kong, run buses at a profit along our tramway routes.

In the speech from this chair last year, Mr. Beith said:—

"When I tell you it is estimated that had the 27,000,000 passengers which our tramcars carried last year been carried—at the same fares—by motor-buses instead of tramcars not only should we not have had over seven lakhs profit but we should not have made sufficient profit to pay any dividend at all."

No Betrayal of Passengers.

I should like to amplify that statement and say that to contemplate the substitution of tramcars by motor-buses in Hong Kong would be to betray not only the shareholders of the Company but also those passengers who—between them—had more than 21,000,000 rides last year at only 5 cents per trip and who are probably unable to pay a higher fare.

That is my answer to the Royal Commission on Transport when they say that:—

"Tramways if not an obsolete form of transport are at all events in a state of obsolescence."

It is true that they also say:—

"We are well aware that tramcars still possess certain advantages over alternative forms of road passenger transport. The tractive effort of the tramcar is lower than in the case of vehicles propelled by internal-combustion engines; they are comparatively easy to drive, and hence to control; and their high standard of acceleration and deceleration makes possible a good average speed. Electrically-propelled tramcars employ energy which is obtained from home-produced fuel (an advantage which they share with the railless trolley vehicle), whereas motor omnibuses consume fuel most of which has been imported.

"Provided that the vehicles and the permanent way are maintained in good condition tramcars can be less noisy than motor omnibuses (though on the other hand the noise emanating from a badly maintained system can be almost intolerable), and there are no offensive fumes. Contact between the smooth steel wheel and rail, and the absence of gear changing, tend to eliminate the vibration and jerkiness to which motor omnibuses are subject. Tramcars are less liable to mechanical failures, though when a failure does occur many cars on the track may be affected, whilst an interruption of the power supply may disorganise the whole system. The average seating capacity of tramcars is sixty-one, while on the larger system the seating capacity it about seventy-eight. In addition, they can carry a considerable proportion of standing passengers, and consequently are very useful at "rush hours," though recent developments in the seating capacity of omnibuses tend to equalise conditions in this respect."

"Slipped Up."

The Commission does not, however, deal with the economics of road transport and the necessity of the lowest possible fares in large industrial towns. If the Commission had said that tramways must give way to other forms of transport in towns of poor or even medium traffic density one could

(*Continued on Page 6.*)

SECURITY OF CHINA INDEMNITY BILL

Second Reading Passed by House of Lords.

OBJECTS PRAISED.

London, Yesterday.

The House of Lords to-day passed the second reading of the China Indemnity Bill as by arrangement there will be no committee or report stages of the Bill, which now awaits its third reading.

Lord Ponsonby paid a tribute to Lord Buxton and his signal services in formulating lines on which various educational objects in China could best be stimulated.

Lord Buxton said that the proposals of the Bill fell short of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, of which he is Chairman, but the Committee cordially agreed to the conclusions reached with the Chinese Government.

Lord Buxton concluded by paying a tribute to his Chinese colleagues on the Advisory Committee.

Lord Ponsonby said that Lord Buxton's endorsement would give a blessing to the measure in China.—Reuter.

MOSCOW A SEPARATE ECONOMIC UNIT

Produces 12 Per Cent of Total Production.

DISTINCT BUDGET.

Moscow, Yesterday.

The Regional Congress has decided to turn the City of Moscow into an independent administrative economic unit with a separate budget and a separate executive committee on the ground that the population of the City is 3,000,000, and produces 12 per cent. of the total of Russian production.—Reuter.

LOCAL RACING SENSATION.

Cagayan Said to Be Australian Pony.

DEBARRED FROM THE DERBY

A local racing sensation of first-class magnitude is indirected in reports current to-day, that Cagayan, greatly favoured in some quarters as the potential winner of the Hong Kong Derby, has been discovered to be an Australian pony, and as such is automatically disqualified from running in the local classic.

Cagayan, brought down from Shanghai for the meeting, opening to-morrow, had shown consistently good form in training, and had attracted the attention of more than one "wise bird" over the rails.

The *China Mail* is informed from a most authoritative quarter that the pony has been found to be of Australian origin, which would appear to debar its running at any of the races at the coming meeting.

It is perhaps superfluous to add that the owner, Mr. A. A. R. Botelho, naturally could not have the slightest inkling of the fact when he purchased the animal.

Upon enquiry this morning, it was learned that an official statement would be forthcoming "later"—which tends to confirm the correctness of the report received.

Should the report prove correct, as it almost certainly will, racing fans will sympathise with the owner and jockey in what must have been a very grievous disappointment

Out of the Hunt!

Cagayan, entered as a China Pony, and bona fide Griffin, as prescribed by the conditions of the Derby, will be unable to compete in the races for Australian ponies, presumably, not having been imported into the Colony under the conditions laid down for Australian pony races at the meeting.

SILVER PROPOSALS.

Part Of Wider Problem Of Stabilisation.

London, Yesterday.

In the House of Commons at question time Mr. Philip Snowden stated that if any practical proposals for the stabilisation of silver were submitted by the interests concerned he would carefully consider them, but it seemed to be difficult to deal with silver effectively except as part of the wider problem of price stabilisation generally. —Reuter.

OVERCAST.

To-day's weather report from the Royal Observatory states:—

The anticyclone has weakened slightly and is now central near Shanghai.

Fresh monsoon prevails along the S.E. coast of China and the N. China Sea.

Forecast:—N.E. winds; fresh; generally overcast.

Rainfall.

Rainfall for 24 hours ended at 10 a.m. to-day—nil. Rainfall since January 1—0.37 inch against an average of 3.04 inches—deficit 2.17 inches.

Temperature.

The temperature at certain specified centres this morning at 6 o'clock was:—

Hong Kong	58
Macao	58
Pratas Island	68
Manila	70
Foochow	47
Chefoo	30
Shanghai	33

PLOT TO RESTORE CAPITALISM.

Counter-Revolutionaries to Stand Trial.

FINANCED ABROAD.

Moscow, Yesterday.

Fourteen members of the Socialist organisation, the "All Union Bureau of Central Committees of Mensheviks," will stand trial in the Supreme Court on March 1, charged with counter-revolutionary activities.

The organisation is alleged to have aimed at the restoration of the capitalist regime by means of "wrecking" activities and foreign intervention.

The indictment states that the All-Union Bureau was organised in central economic institutions and a number of counter-revolutionary cells were financed by Mensheviks abroad and the industrial Party from funds subsidised by the German Social Democratic Party, the Second International, and the Paris Commercial Industrial Committee. All defendants are reported to have pleaded guilty.—Reuter.

CIVIL SERVANT M.P. SUSPENDED.

Rises from Sick Bed to Question Chancellor.

SPEAKER DISOBEYED.

London, Yesterday.

Mr. W. J. Brown, Labour left winger and Secretary of the Civil Service Clerical Association, although suffering from pleurisy, left his sick bed to attend the House of Commons in order to question Mr. Snowden in regard to othe cut in the bonus of Civil Servants, operating on March 1.

Dissatisfied with Mr. Snowden's reply that he was simply carrying out an agreement, Mr. Brown pressed for a debate in spite of warnings from the Speaker. He was named for disobeying the rulings of the Chair and Mr. Snowden moved his suspension.

Left-wingers challenged the motion and the voting resulted:—

For	296
Against	27
Majority	269

Mr. Brown will thus be suspended for five days.—Reuter.

EXPLORING ARCTIC OCEAN.

Sir H. Wilkins and His Jules Verne Craft.

SUBMARINE "EYES."

New York, Yesterday.

The "eyes" of the submarine in which Sir Hubert Wilkins will explore the Arctic Ocean and endeavour to reach the Pole have been tested and found satisfactory. They contain 5,000 watt lamps of special glass capable of throwing a beam almost 100 miles in the air, but their radius under water is scarcely 100 feet. Two will be mounted on the prow to enable the crew to see the ice tongues extending from the surface ice. Another will be a movable connection for divers' use.

Sir Hubert Wilkins expects the glow from the lamps to attract marine life to the side of the submarine, such as seals, polar bears, and walruses, besides fish.—Reuter's American Service.

PILOT'S CALM LEAP TO DEATH.

Switches Off Engine and Jumps from 'Plane.

PASSENGERS INJURED.

Elizabethville, Belgian Congo, Yesterday.

A weekly mail 'plane en route to Boma crashed at Bukana. The pilot, evidently realising that a crash was inevitable, switched off his engine and jumped to death. Five passengers and one mechanic were injured but they were able to continue the journey in another aeroplane.—Reuter.

STEAMBOAT CO.'S AFFAIRS.

Net Profit of Over $23,000.

LOSS ON MACAO RUN.

The report of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., to the ordinary annual meeting of shareholders to be held in the office of the Company, on Thursday, March 5, at 11 a.m., is as under:—

The Directors have pleasure in submitting the accompanying statement of the Company's accounts for the year ended December 31, 1930. The net profit for the year, after deduction of interest, repairs, depreciation, etc., amounts to $22,395.67 which with the amount brought forward from 1929 account, $19,123.10, gives an amount of $41,518.77, which the Directors recommend be carried forward to next account.

From the commencement of the year until the middle of May the steamers were operated under the system of "farming" and from that date until June 30, they were managed for the Company's account by the former farmers.

A poll having been taken on June 24, showing a majority of 5,068 votes in favour of the resolution submitted by certain shareholders at the extraordinary meeting convened on March 4, your Directors decided as from July 1 to operate the steamers under their own management, and to this end a Chinese manager was appointed and the necessary compradore's staffs and Chinese branch offices' staffs engaged.

Adverse Exchange Effects.

Had it not been for the adverse rate of exchange ruling during the latter part of the year, which increased enormously the operating cost of the Company's steamers, the results of the past year's working would have compared quite favourably with those of the previous year.

The comparative figures for the Chinese freight and passenger business for the periods:—

(1) 1929 January-June (when such business was farmed out) and

(2) 1930 January-June (when from 1.1.30 to middle May such business was farmed out but thereafter until 30.6.30 was under farmers' management) show that the receipts for the 1st period exceeded those for the 2nd period by the sum of $18,086.58 for the Canton line and $20,963.30 for the Maco line. The comparative figures for the 1929 July-December period (when such business was farmed out) and for the 1930 July-December period (when the business was under the Company's own management) show that, whilst the Company received $10,727.86 less in the Macao line when the business was managed by the Company, it received $97,153.55 more in the Canton line during the period of the Company's own management than the corresponding period in 1929 when the business was farmed out.

Canton Line.

Compared with the gross earnings of the previous year, the Canton line showed a decrease of 5.2 per cent. for the first six months' working, but under our new management more favourable results were effected during the second half of the year and an increase of 23.1 per cent was recorded. Compared with the immediately preceding half-year, viz., January-June, 1930, the result is even more striking the ratio of increase in earnings being 33.1 per cent.

As regrds the loss of earnings on the Macao line of, $10,727.86, it should be pointed out that for about 3½ months during the period in question the Company had to compete with increased opposition. Had the business been farmed out, the farmers would have been entitled to substantial deductions in respect of this increased opposition. If the amount deductible by the farmers was to be credited to the account, the result would have shown a profit of approximately $9,772.14.

The usual overhauls and repairs were effected to the Company's fleet of steamers and are all in good running order.

Directors.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Mr. R. K. Batchelor and Mr. Li Tse-fong retire from the Board by rotation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

During the year the Hon. Mr. C. Gordon Mackie, Messrs. J. P. Warren, J. H. Little, J. M. Alves, R. E. Coxon, and A. B. Stewart resigned from the Board and Sir Robert Ho Tung, Mr. Li Tse-fong and Mr. M. W. Lo were elected as Directors at the last annual general meeting, and the Hon. Mr. J. P. Braga and Mr. C. A. da Roza were invited to join the Board.

Auditors.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Lindstead and Davis and Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews, who offer themselves as auditors for the present year.

ITALY AND NAVAL AGREEMENT.

Satisfactory Ending to Conference.

TRIUMPH OF DIPLOMACY.

Rome, Yesterday.

Optimism prevails in connection with the speedy diplomacy carried on by "Mr. Henderson's travelling conference." Signor Mussolini, accompanied by Signors Grandi and Sirianni, received Mr. Henderson and Mr. Alexander in the Pallazzo Venezia in the afternoon and discussed the draft naval agreement for an hour. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Alexander were smiling when they left and arranged a sight-seeing tour for to-morrow. This is indicated as meaning that their work is done and that the political aspect of the negotiations has been satisfactorily decided. The technical side still remains, and experts worked furiously all day long and start early to-morrow.—Reuter.

Banquet to Visitors.

Rugby, Yesterday.

The Naval negotiations continued throughout to-day in Rome. In the light of their recent Paris conversations the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. A. V. Alexander, discussed the various technical questions involved with Signor Grandi and Admiral Sirianni at the Palace Chigi for some hours.

In the afternoon the British Ministers discussed the Naval accord project for an hour with Signor Mussolini when Signors Grandi and Sirianni were also present. It is anticipated that the discussions will be continued tomorrow. To-night Signor Grandi gave a banquet in honour of the British visitors.—British Wireless Service.

Earlier Report.

Rome, Yesterday.

The British attempt to bring Italy into the full naval treaty began in earnest at Chigi Palace at 11 a.m. to-day, with a meeting between Mr. Henderson and Mr. Alexander and the Foreign Minister, Signor Gandhi, and the Navy Minister, Admiral Sirianni.—Reuter.

BONUS BILL.

VETOED BY PRESIDENT HOOVER.

SUSTAINED BY HOUSE.

Washington, Yesterday.

President Hoover has vetoed the Soldiers' Bonus Bill but, in view of the huge majorities by which the Bill was passed in both Houses, the House of Representatives forthwith decided to sustain the measure.—Reuter's American Service.

[A Washington cablegram of February 20 stated:—The Senate has passed the Soldiers' Bonus Bill, which has already received the approval of the House of Representatives, and which empowers "veterans" of the World War holding adjusted compensation certificates to borrow from the Government 50 per cent. of their face value instead of 22½ per cent. as at present. Mr. Mellon recently declared that the Bill would involve loan operations totalling £200,000,000 (G.$1,000,000,000) in the next two years. President Hoover is expected to veto the Bill, but he will probably be overridden by a two-thirds majority of Congress.]

MAIN CAUSES OF DEPRESSION.

Mr. Reginald McKenna on Economic Troubles.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Midland Bank, Ltd., the chairman, the Rt. Hon. R. McKenna, gave a detailed review of the international gold position. Summarising the situation in all its respects, he said:—"I would ascribe the economic troubles of the world to three main causes, all of which, unfortunately, are in operation at the same time. First, we are suffering from maldistribution of gold due to the relative inability or unwillingness of creditor countries to lend to debtor countries. Secondly, the public has not yet recovered from the reaction from the American stock market collapse. And thirdly, we are still feeling the effects of the long period of deflation in this country.

"In this situation it may be asked: From what direction can recovery be expected? Low money rates, which provide an inducement to the long-term investment of accumulated bank deposits, will naturally help to stimulate industrial activity. The United States and France would seem to be realising more clearly the necessity of lending abroad on a large and continuous scale if international equilibrium is to be restored and maintained. Further, the policy of deflation, in the sense of periodic reductions of money supplies, has probably been abandoned in this country. It is earnestly to be hoped that under the combined influence of these factors the state of public sentiment will gradually improve.

"If monetary policy can do little in present circumstances to stimulate recovery by positive action, it can at any rate preserve conditions favourable to recovery by keeping money plentiful and cheap.

"The question arises whether catastrophes as bad as the present one might not be altogether avoided. True, a central bank in a creditor country cannot directly regulate the volume of external lending, but it can stimulate it by keeping internal money rates low; and, though a central bank, has no direct influence over public psychology, we must remember that a depressed state of mind is initially a resultant of bad trade before becoming a cause of its continuance."

WAR LOAN INTEREST

A NOVEL SUGGESTION FOR CONVERSION.

Speaking in Belfast at the dinner of the Incorporated Accountants' Belfast and District Society last month, Mr. R. Wilson Bartlett, J.P., F.S.A.A., suggested a novel method for reducing interest on five per cent. War Loan. He said that a determined effort should be made over a period of, say, ten years to reduce the interest at present paid on the outstanding five per cent. War Loan debt of £2,000,000,000 which at present was such a tremendous charge against our annual Budget and which was paid without deduction of British income tax, to the immense advantage of investors in foreign countries.

Under a definite ten years' conversion scheme, an issue could be made each year of £200,000,000, commencing in the first year at 4¾d. per cent. the second year at 4⅝ per cent., the third year at 4½ per cent., and so on until the old pre-War rate of 3½ per cent. had been obtained.

Trade Depression Remedies.

Mr. Bartlett suggested the following remedies for trade depression:—

Reduced expenditure by the national Government and all local authorities, especially on all non-revenue-producing schemes;

The removal of certain trades union rules which restricted output and prevented the best men from giving a fair day's work in return for a fair day's pay;

The removal of the "cost-of-living" index figure as a basis for the settlement of salaries and wages, especially in protected industries;

The removal of the anti-profit atmosphere, which made profits harder to procure and less worth having. It damped down enterprise and multiplied unemployment;

A five years' moratorium from all legislation which imposed further restriction and liabilities on commerce and industry;

An embargo against any foreign goods which were manufactured under unfair competition;

A permanent national commission which could examine and advise as to whether any duty should or should not be placed on manufactured imports for the purpose of safeguarding home industries. At present this appeared to be the plaything of the politicians. Some desired to shut the windows and avoid draughts. Others advocated the open-air treatment. Surely this was a matter which—although extremely delicate and complicated—ought to be fully explored by business men free from political bias, party tactics, or those shibboleths which were in vogue some forty or fifty years ago.

FAR EASTERN BUSINESS.

Reports From American Trade Commissioners.

The following messages from American Trade Commissioners in the Far East, dated January 19, indicate the business conditions ruling at the present time:—

Shanghai:—The rapid decline in silver is becoming a serious obstacle to import business. On January 6 silver reached the lowest point in the Chinese history. Announcement of a new domestic loan indicates the improved credit standing of the Nationalist Government, approximating 15 million dollars.

Hong Kong:—Business in South China is quiet with an undertone in pessimism. Deliveries from local stocks are made in fair volume but orders for future deliveries are confined to the minimum.

Tientsin:—The severe exchange fluctuation has practically stopped import business. Exports of walnuts and hides show slight increase but traders generally are holding off on all exchange transactions. The abolition of the likin tax is effective only in the immediate Tientsin area as taxes under different names are being collected in most sections.

Tokyo:—Business in Japan is quiet and undisturbed by the year-end settlements during the first week of January. Business leaders agree that satisfactory progress in financial and industrial re-adjustments following the removal of the gold embargo places Japan in a position to take advantage of any improvement in world economic conditions. It is generally believed that Japan's trade with China will not be adversely affected by new changes in the tariff since increases on cotton textiles and other commodities entering into trade are small.

HONG KONG MARKET PRODUCE.

APPROXIMATE RETAIL PRICES.

Butcher Meat.		Feb. 6, 1931. Cts.	June, 1918. Cts.	June, 1914. Cts.
Beef Sirloin	牛尾筋 lb.	30	24	12
" Prime Cut	"	30	28	11
" Corned	咸牛肉 "	—	23	12
" Roast	燒牛肉 "	30	24	22
" Breast	牛腩 "	28	20	18
" Soup	湯肉 "	25	20	18
" Steak	牛排 "	30	24	22
" Steak Sirloin ...	牛柳 "	44	30	35
" Sausages	牛腸 "	36	26	20
BuHock's Brains	牛腦 per set	15	10	12
" Tongue, fresh ..	牛脷 each	65	50	60
" Tongue, corned	咸牛脷 "	—	60	—
" Head	牛頭 "	$1.00	—$1.20	
" Heart	牛心 lb.	24	18	14
" Hump, Salt ...	牛肩 "	—	20	18
" Feet	牛脚 each	10	10	12
" Kidneys	牛腰 "	15	10	12
" Tail	牛尾 "	25	20	22
" Liver	牛肝 lb.	24	18	14
" Tripe	牛肚 "	6	6	4
Calves' Head & Feet ..	牛仔頭脚 set	$1.20	$1.00	$1.00
Mutton Chop	羊排 lb.	36	26	—
" Leg	羊脾 "	36	26	—
" Shoulder	羊手 "	34	24	—
" Saddle	羊鞍 "	36	—	—
Pig's Chitlings	猪肥腸 "	30	27	—
" Brains	猪腦 Per set	3	—	—
" Feet	猪脚 lb.	15	15	—
" Fry	猪杂 "	28	15	18
" Head	猪頭 "	18	20	—
" Heart	猪心 each	15	10	10
" Kidneys	猪腰 "	15	10	3
" Liver	猪肝 lb.	48	30	24
Pork Chop	猪排骨 "	36	25	23
" Leg	猪脾 "	36	—	—
" Loin	猪腰圓 "	42	60	70
" Fat or Lard ...	猪油 "	28	21	—
Sheep's Head & Feet ..	羊頭脚 per set	90	60	70
" Heart	羊心 each	12	8	7
" Kidneys	羊腰 "	15	12	10
" Liver	牛肝 "	45	26	25
Sucking Pigs, to order	乳猪 lb.	25	25	22
Suet, Beef	鮮牛油 "	30	20	18
" Mutton	鮮羊油 "	36	26	26
Veal	牛仔肉 "	22	20	20
" Sausages	牛仔腸 "	28	—	—
" " No. 1	"	32	—	—

Poultry.		Feb. 6, 1931. Cts.	June, 1918. Cts.	June, 1914. Cts.
Chicken	鷄 lb.	62	30	31
Capons, Small	線鷄 "	52	28	30
Capons, Large	肥線鷄 "	58	28	30
Duck	鴨 "	40	22	21
Doves	班鳩 each	40	22	21
Eggs, Hen (cooking) ..	鷄蛋 per doz.	35	18	—
Eggs, Hen (fresh) ...	新鮮鷄蛋 "	38	25	20
Fowls, Canton	本地鷄 lb.	62	36	24
Fowls, Hainan	海南鷄 "	50	85	24
Geese	鵝 "	40	24	24
Pigeons, Canton	白鴿 each	40	80	—
" Hoihow	海口鴿 "	30	28	—
Turkeys, Cock	火鷄公 lb.	75	—	—
Turkeys, Hen	火鷄母 "	60	61	45
Snipe	沙鉏 each	35	—	—
Pheasant	山鷄 pair	2.50	—	—
Quail	鶉鶉 each	35	—	—
Partridges	鷓鴣 "	95	—	—

Fish.				
Barbel	蛟魚 lb.	45	16	24
Bream	鯛魚 "	24	20	16
Canton Fresh Water Fish	省城淺水塘魚 "	24	—	—
Carp	鯉魚 "	27	13	16
Catfish	鯰魚 "	25	16	27
Codfish	鱈魚 "	25	12	9
Crabs	蟹 "	30	16	17
Cuttle Fish	墨魚 "	27	23	26
Dab	"	26	16	27
Dace	黃尾鰱 "	32	23	16
Dog Fish	鯊肚沙 "	16	10	—
Eels, Conger	海鰻魚 "	27	10	8
" Fresh Water ..	淡水鰻鱔 "	24	16	—
" Yellow	黃鱔 "	29	10	8
Frogs	田鷄 "	62	26	30
Garoupa	石班魚 "	60	32	25
Gudgeon	白鱔 "	20	40	30
Herrings	鰊魚 "	22	22	18
Halibut	鳕魚 "	27	13	23
Labrus	鳥鮫 "	30	18	15
Loach	龍利 "	57	32	13
Lobsters	蝦蛄 "	44	62	24
Mackerel	鯖魚 "	28	32	21
Monk Fish	鮟鱇魚 "	30	20	20
Mullet	烏魚 "	27	13	2
Oysters	蠔豉 "	32	12	2
Parrot Fish	鸚哥魚 "	21	14	9
Perch	鱸魚 "	23	30	15
Pike	白鱧 "	30	16	9
Plaice	鮃魚 "	32	36	20
Pomfret, White	白鯧 "	48	36	30
Pomfret, Black	黑鯧 "	38	36	45
Prawns	蝦 "	58	10	14
Ray	鱆魚 "	16	10	14
Rock Fish	石斑魚 "	20	13	18
Roach	鯽魚 "	28	22	10
Salmon	鮭魚 "	50	86	30
Shark	沙魚 "	16	8	10
Skate	鱏魚 "	16	10	10
Shrimps	蝦 "	38	32	80
Snapper	立鱲魚 "	40	28	28
Soles	龍利魚 "	28	22	28
Tench	鯉魚 "	27	26	85
Turbot	左口魚 "	28	12	12
Turtles small fr. water	"	1.05	40	—

Fruits.				
Almonds	杏仁 lb.	85	35	—
Apples (California) ..	金山蘋果 "	24	26	—
Bananas (bride's)	細山香蕉 "	5	4	—
Carambola	楊桃 "	—	12	—
Coconuts	椰子 each	13	10	10
Lemons, China	檸檬 lb.	10	25	30
Lemons (American) ..	金山檸檬 each	13	8	—
Lichees, Dried	荔枝干 lb.	60	25	30
Oranges (Canton) ...	新會甜橙 "	14	—	—
Oranges	橙 "	18	—	15
Pears (Canton)	沙梨 "	16	—	—
Peanuts	花生 "	14	10	12
Persimmons, Large ..	紅柿 "	—	12	—
Plantain	大蕉 "	—	8	—
Pumelo, Siam	暹羅柚 each	15	12	6
Walnuts	合桃 lb.	18	—	16
Grapes	葡萄子 "	60	—	—

Vegetables, &c.				
Artichokes	鷄芝竹 each	12	—	2
Beans, Sprout	芽菜 lb.	5	—	7
" Long	豆角 "	—	8	—
Beet Root	紅頭 "	10	—	—
Bitter Squash	苦瓜 "	6	24	—
Brinjals, Green	青瓜 "	10	5	3
" Red	紅瓜 "	6	5	3
Cabbage, Chinese	芥菜 "	8	—	—
" (Shanghai) .	鄉菜 "	12	12	—
Cane Shoots, bunch ..	茭笋 "	10	—	—
Cauliflower (Large) ..	大鄉菜花 each	18	—	—
" (Medium)	中鄉菜花 "	14	—	—
" (Small) ..	細鄉菜花 "	12	6	6
Carrots	金笋 lb.	6	5	6
Celery, Chinese	芹菜 "	10	10	6
Chillies, Dried	辣椒干 "	15	25	5
" Red	紅辣椒 "	18	10	10
" Green	青花椒 "	14	8	12
Curry Stuff, English..	架厘材料 "	10	8	—
Cucumbers	粟瓜 "	8	2	—
Garlic	蔡頭 "	10	6	6
Ginger, Young	子薑 "	10	7	—
" Old	老薑 "	8	10	—
Horseradish, Shanghai	"	35	8	4
Indian Corn	粟米 "	8	45	—
Lettuce	白生菜 "	6	1	—
Water Chestnuts	馬蹄 "	8	—	8
" Mandarin.	桂林馬蹄 "	10	—	8
Mushrooms, Fresh ...	鮮草菌 "	—	—	8
Okroes	"	—	1	10
Onions, Bombay	洋葱頭 "	10	8	8
" Green	生葱 "	6	4	6
" Shanghai	上海葱頭 "	8	6	—
Parsley	芹菜 "	20	60	8
Potato, Sweet	番薯 "	5	3	—
" Japanese	日本薯仔 "	—	3	—
" American	金山薯仔 "	—	3	—
Pumpkin	多瓜 "	5	4	4
Radish	紅蘿蔔仔 "	5	—	—
Rhubarb (Fresh)	大黃菜 "	15	—	10
Shallots	干葱頭 "	6	—	8
Spinach	菠菜 "	6	8	—
Tomatoes	番茄 "	12	4	—
Taros	芋頭 "	6	7	—
Turnips, Punti (Long)	蘿蔔 "	6	6	—
Vegetable Marrow	西葫菜 "	—	4	—
Water Cress	"	8	15	—
Water Lily Root	蓮 "	6	15	—

TAXATION IN FRANCE.

Agitation For Reduction Increasing.

Paris, Jan. 12.

Increasing public agitation for the reduction of taxes following the deflation of French prosperity has caused French deputies to drop their bitter campaign for higher salaries.

Since the war, French deputies and senators have been loudly demanding more money for their services to the country. A project was on the point of being passed last year, but was temporarily dropped during one of the changes of Government. Now the leaders have entirely abandoned their fight until the bad times are over.

French deputies and senators earn 60,000 francs yearly, or about $2,400—just enough to buy an American car after paying the French duties. This salary, they insist, is not sufficient in view of the fact that the French Parliament requires practically all their time. Often the Chamber of Deputies sits 20 hours daily.

Ministerial Salaries.

Members of the Cabinet are better paid, but their jobs are insecure and rarely last for more than eight consecutive months. Cabinet members are paid 180,000 francs about $7,200, with an extra allowance of 50,000 francs ($2,000) for an automobile. Government paymasters have a difficult job paying cabinet members for their period of service is always less than one year, except for M. Aristide Briand. A day wage scale has been devised and when a Cabinet member is returned to his rank as a deputy or senator his salary is figured by multiplying the number of days he has served. After his defeat, he returns to the 80,000 francs yearly without auto.

On the other hand, the President of the Republic, M. Gaston Doumergue, draws a higher salary than the President of the United States. His total appropriations amount to 5,600,000 francs, approximately $144,000, which is divided into equal sums for travels, salary, and entertainment. —United Press.

Constituting the greatest quantity of oil handled by the Regal Oil Refinery in its history, the October deliveries were about three times the amount of naphtha and crude oil received in September, it is officially announced. October deliveries amounted to 35,559 barrels as compared with 11,905 barrels in September and 11,378 in August.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

THE EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA & CHINA TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

The following unclaimed telegrams are lying at the E.E. Telegraph Co. Office, Hong Kong:—

Graso, from Toronto, Ont.

Star Metals Manufacturing Co., from Madras.

Wekrli Sulzererector, Hotel Cecil, from Winter Thur.

S. LACK.
Superintendent.

Hong Kong, February 26, 1931.

A new Canadian Government Trade Commissioner's office is to be opened at Cairo, Egypt. The territory for this new office, which will open some time in December, includes Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Cyprus, Syria, Irak and Persia. When the Canadian Trade Commissioner takes over at Cairo, Canada will have 34 trade commissioners in different parts of the world and a commercial agent at Sydney, Australia.

The new Harbour Commission of Montreal is preparing for an active winter's season in the matter of port extension and improvement, which will involve a couple of million dollars, half of which will be disbursed in wages.

TO LET.

TO LET.—European has large unfurnished room with open view. Modern conveniences. Hong Kong side. Apply Box No. 682, c/o "China Mail."

TO LET.—Ground Floor of No. 8a, Des Voeux Road Central; at present in the occupation of the Netherlands India Commercial Bank, available from 1st April, 1931. Apply to David Sassoon & Co., Ltd.

TO LET.—To prospective visitors to England ideal accommodation in the West End of London. Centre of theatre land, etc. Good English fare Moderate charges. 61, Clarendon Road, Holland Park, London, W.11. G. B. Colson.

MISCELLANEOUS

YOUR VISITING CARDS neatly and promptly printed.—"China" Mail" Office, No. 3A, Wyndham St. Telephone 20022.

TUITION GIVEN

YOUNG Chinese Lady, educated in America, desires position as teacher of English in Schools or as private tutoress.—Box No. 681, c/o "China Mail."

ENGLISH LESSONS given to Students with particular attention to pronunciation, by English Barrister (Middle Temple). Apply Box No. 680, c/o "China Mail."

HOME TUITION.

WESTOVER—STEVENAGE. Within an hour from London. In healthy neighbourhood. SCHOOL for GIRLS and SMALL BOYS. A few Boarders received in the House of the Principal. Individual care and attention. For Particulars apply to:
MISS RUTH CULLEY (Camb. Higher Local), Camb. Teachers' Diploma)
MISS GERTRUDE TURNER, (National Frodel Higher Certificate).

ALEXANDER'S INSTITUT DE BEAUTE

For the best Permanent Finger and Marcel Waves, Hair Cutting and Manicure for Ladies and Gentlemen.
Pedder Bldg. 1st floor. Room 5. Tel. 25169.
Opposite entrance H.K. Hotel.

FOR SALE

POSTAGE STAMPS CATALOGUES FOR 1931.

You want a Catalogue.

Because it enables you to identify your stamps, to recognise scarce varieties, to gain a knowledge of stamp values, and to have a basis on which to buy, sell or exchange.

GRACA & CO.,
Dealers in Postage Stamps and Philatelic Goods, Post Cards, Prayer Books, Garden Seeds, Toys, &c.,
No. 10, Wyndham Street.

OUR LADIES' TAILORING DEPARTMENT

undertakes to execute orders FOR MAKING DRESSES & GOWNS on latest styles within 16 hours.

LOVELY SILK STORE
No. 2, Stanley Street. Tel. 22100.
(Adjoining D'Aguilar Street.)

QUALITY PRINTING With Quick Service
THE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE LTD. CHINA MAIL BLDG. 3A WYNDHAM ST.

SPORT NOTICES

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL RACE MEETING 1931.

February 28, March 2, 3, 4, and 7, 1931.

ON SATURDAY, February 28, the first race will be run at 1.30 p.m., and on all other days at 11.30 a.m. On the first day the first bell will be rung at 1 p.m. and on the other four days at 11 a.m.

MEMBERS' BADGES & ENCLOSURE.

Members are reminded that they and their ladies must wear their badges prominently displayed.

No one without a badge will be admitted to the Members' Enclosure.

Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at $10 per day including tax—or $40 including tax for the Meeting (ladies $5 and $20, respectively), are obtainable through the Secretary upon introduction by a Member, such Member to be responsible for all chits, &c.

Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale at the Race Club.

On no pretext will children be permitted in either enclosure during the first four days of the Meeting.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is $4 per day including tax for all persons, including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

Soldiers and Sailors in uniform are admitted to the Public Enclosure at $1 per day, including tax.

Bookmakers, Pic Tac men, &c., will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of the Hong Kong Jockey Club during the Race Meeting.

SERVANTS' PASSES.

Passes for Servants will be issued on application to Messrs. Linstead & Davis, Alexandra Buildings.

Employers are requested to distribute them with discrimination and to endorse their names on the passes.

Servants are not permitted in the Members' Enclosure except for passing through on their duties, but must remain in their employers' stands.

Any persons found loitering with Servants' Passes in their possession will forfeit the same and will be removed from the enclosure.

By Order,
C. B. BROWN,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, February 11, 1931.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL RACE MEETING, 1931.

THE TIFFIN INTERVAL on the Last Four Days will be taken after the Fifth Race on Each Day.

By Order,
C. B. BROWN,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, February 25, 1931.

COMPANY MEETINGS

HONG KONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS in this Corporation will be held at City Hall, Hong Kong, on SATURDAY, the 28th February, 1931, at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Board of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1930.

The REGISTER OF SHARES of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 16th February to SATURDAY, the 28th February, 1931, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
V. M. GRAYBURN,
Chief Manager.
Hong Kong, 9th February, 1931.

THE HONG KONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, 1, Queen's Building, Victoria, Hong Kong, on THURSDAY, 5th March, 1931, at 11 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, and Electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, 20th February, 1931, to THURSDAY, 5th March, 1931, both days inclusive, during which period NO transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
JOHN ARNOLD,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, 6th February, 1931.

THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FORTY-SECOND ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING will be held at the Company's Offices, P. & O. Building, on WEDNESDAY, 18th March, 1931, at 11 a.m. for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1930, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The REGISTER OF MEMBERS of the Company will be CLOSED from 5th March, 1931, to 18th March, 1931, both days inclusive, during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., LTD.,
Agents.
Hong Kong, 19th Feb., 1931.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 42nd ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held at the Offices of the Company, Exchange Building, Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria, Hong Kong, on WEDNESDAY, the 18th day of March, 1931, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December, 1930.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, 4th March, 1931, to WEDNESDAY, 18th March, 1931, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
ALLAN KEITH,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, 19th February, 1931.

THE HONG KONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED.
(Incorporated in Hong Kong.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of Shareholders of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, will be held at the Registered Office of the Company (Exchange Building, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong), on THURSDAY, the 16th day of April, 1931, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Board of Directors for the year ended on the 31st December, 1930, confirming the appointment of a Director and re-electing a Director and the Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, the 1st April, 1931, until THURSDAY, the 16th April, 1931, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
F. C. BARRY,
Secretary.
Hong Kong, 25th Feb., 1931.

COMPANY MEETINGS

HONG KONG TELEPHONE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 11th day of MARCH, 1931, at the BOARD ROOM of the Company, Second Floor, Exchange Building, Hong Kong, at 11.30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Board of Directors, for the Financial Year ended 31st December, 1930, and re-electing Two Directors and the Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to the 11th MARCH, 1931, both days inclusive.

Dated this 11th day of February, 1931.

By Order of the Board,
W. L. McKENZIE,
Secretary.
14, Des Voeux Road Central,
Hong Kong.

GENERAL NOTICES

WATER RETURN.

The level and storage of water in our reservoirs on February 1, 1931, is as under:—

City and Hill District.

	1930	1931
Tytam	12' 5"B	25' 3"B
Tytam Byewash	26' 1"B	28' 2"B
Tytam Intermediate	19'11"B	0' 6"E
Tytam Tuk	37' 3"B	29' 0"B
Wong Nei Chung	22' 1"B	21' 5"B
Pokfulum	14' 8"B	18' 8"B

[Note: B. denotes "Below Overflow"; A. denotes "Above Overflow"; L. denotes "Level with Overflow."]

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons.

	1930	1931
Tytam	286.96	203.27
Tytam Byewash	.42	—
Tytam Intermediate	101.12	193.08
Tytam Tuk	670.01	808.00
Wong Nei Chung	8.47	8.96
Pokfulum	34.68	26.91
Total	1,101.67	1,240.19

Consumption of water in the City and Hill District in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of December.

	1930	1931
Consumption	211.76	248.15
Estimated population	439,440	449,760
Consumption per head per day	15.5	17.7

January, 1930.—From January 1 to 28 a 12 hours of supply (6 a.m.—6 p.m.) was given to all Rider Main Districts. Principal Mains closed (6 p.m.—6 a.m.) and from January 29 to 31, a constant supply was operated in all Rider Main Districts on account of Chinese New Year.

January, 1931.—From 1 to 15 inclusive a constant supply was given in all Rider Main Districts east of Eastern Street. From 1 to 15 inclusive a constant street fountain supply was given in the districts west of Eastern Street. From 16 to 31 inclusive a constant street fountain supply was operated in all Rider Main Districts.

Kowloon.

	1930	1931
Kowloon Reservoir	2' 7"B	8' 8"B
Shek Lai Pui Reservoir	10' 0"B	5' 0"B
Reception Reservoir	2' 9"B	4'10"B

Storage in millions and decimals of gallons.

	1930	1931
Kowloon Reservoir	326.05	278.26
Shek Lai Pui Reservoir	79.00	96.60
Reception Reservoir	25.98	21.05
Total	431.03	395.91

Consumption of water in Kowloon in millions and decimals of gallons during the month of January.

	1930	1931
Consumption	110.03	134.32
Estimated population	173,680	178,720
Consumption per head per day	20.4	24.2

Constant supply in all districts during January, 1930 and 1931.

The Government Analyst's reports show that the quality of the water is satisfactory.

Total rainfall: January 31, 1930, 2.28; January 31, 1931, .33

RADIO

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

The following programme will be broadcast to-day from the Hong Kong Broadcasting Station Z.B.W. on a wavelength of 355 metres:—

5-7 p.m.—Chinese Programme.

6-6.30 p.m.—Dr. K. S. Shin, M.B., B.S., will give the last lecture of a series on "Infant Welfare."

7-10.30 p.m.—European Programme of Columbia & Regal Records kindly supplied by Messrs. Anderson Music Co.

7 p.m.—Stock Quotations.

7.02-7.35 p.m.—Band Selections.

A Moorish March (Gustav Holst), Harton Colliery Band (2nd prize winners at the Crystal Palace Band Contest) (9191).
Mighty to Save (Marshall), The Salvation Army's Band (50).
The Blue Danube Waltz (Strauss), Prince Eugen March (Composer Unknown), The Bombardiers' Military Band (98).
Langlan Bay March (Y. May), The Carlisle St. Stephen's Brass Band (18).
1812 Overture (Tschaikowsky), The Regimental Band of H.M. Grenadier Guards (576).
Seaside Medley (Published by Messrs. Lawrence Wright Music Co.), The Band of H.M. Royal Air Force (105).

7.35-7.50 p.m.—Two Song Medleys.

Florrie Forde Old Time Medley (Published by Messrs. Francis Day & Hunter), Florrie Forde and Chorus (9461).
Ragtime Memories (Published by Messrs. Feldman & Co.), The Jolly Old Fellows (113).

7.50-8.18 p.m.—Operatic.

The Bohemian Girl—Then You'll Remember (Balfe, arr. Sear),
Maritana—Scenes That are Brightest (Wallace arr. Sear),
J. H. Squire Celeste Octet (9107).
Carmen—Flower Song (Bizet), Arthur Jordan, Tenor (9204).
The Barber of Seville—Una Voce (Rossini), Cornet Solo by Jack Mackintosh with the Harton Colliery Band (169).
Faust—La Kermesse (Gounod),
Faust—Soldier's Chorus (Gounod), Chorus & Orchestra of the National Theatre, Paris (9747).

8.18-8.48 p.m.—Musical Comedy and Talkie Tunes.

Mr. Cinders—Vocal Gems, The Comedy Singers (9325).
Rio Rita—I'd Rather Have a Memory of You, Geoffrey Gwyther & Edith Day (54).
Rio Rita—The Rangers' Song, Geoffrey Gwyther & Rangers (54).
Orange Blossom Time (from Hollywood Revue of 1929),
When My Dreams Come True (From the Coconuts), Gerald Adams, Tenor (944).
Down by the Old Oak Tree (from On With the Show),
I Want to be Alone with Mary Brown (from On With the Show), Henry Hearty and Chorus (9144).

8.48-9 p.m.—Orchestral.

Neapolitan Nights (Zamecnik), The London Novelty Orchestra (164).
Song of the Volga Boatmen (Traditional),
a. Cossack Marching Song,
b. Gipsy Song, The Cossack Orchestra and Singers (54).

9 p.m.—Weather Report, Local Time, etc.

9.05-10.30 p.m.—A Concert.

Piano Solo—
Polonaise in E Flat (Chopin), Jose Echaniz (1648).
Duet—
Sweet & Low (Tennyson & Barnaby) —Boy & Girl Soprano,
Home Sweet Home (Payne & Bishop) —Boy & Girl Soprano, Evelyn Griffiths & Charles Hawtrey (112).
Song—
Song of Hybrias the Cretan (Campbell & Elliot), Robert Easton, Bass (9412).
Violin Solo—
Caprice Viennois (Kreisler),
Ave Maria (Schubert arr. Wilhelmj), Naoum Blinder (7).
Song—
Kathleen Aroon (Ball, Olcott & Weslyn),
The Click of Her Little Brogans (Ball & Brennan), William Kennedy, Tenor (938).
Cornet & Trombone Duet—
Tales of Hoffman—Barcarolle (Offenbach), Jack Mackintosh and Jesse Stamp (111).
Song—
The Erl King (Schubert),
The Enchantress (Chorley & Hatton), Muriel Brunskill, Contralto (9088).
'Cello Solo—
The Prize Song from Meistersingers (Wagner arr. Squire),
Shenandoah—Sea Shanty (Thiman), W. H. Squire (2186).
Song—
In Deepest Cellar (Fischer),
Armourer's Song from Robin Hood, Wilfred Glenn, Bass (9246).
Octet—
Mignon—Introduction & Romance (Thomas arr. Robertson),
Mignon—Polonaise (Thomas arr. Robertson), J. H. Squire Celeste Octet (9507).
Vocal Duet—
Hush! Here Comes the Dream Man (Weston Barnes & Scott)— Boy & Girl Sopranos, Evelyn Griffiths & Charles Hawtrey (142).
Song—
The Bandolero (Leslie Stuart),
Anchored (Michael Watson), Mr. Robert Howe, Bass-Baritone (286).

10.30 p.m.—Close Down.

WELL - TRAVELLED PRINCE.

100,000 Miles in Ten Years.

London, Jan. 16.

"Well, that is settled. I will go myself." These words are credited to the Prince of Wales when a deputation of organisers of the British Empire Trade Exhibition in Buenos Aires visited the Prince and asked him to suggest someone to open the Exhibition on March 14 in view of its importance and its prospects of reviving British industries. With characteristic enthusiasm the Prince has learnt Spanish specially to qualify himself for the mission. Now with his brother, Prince George, he has started on a 17,000 mile tour, 2,000 of which will be flown, taking with him his own British light aeroplane and the nation wishing him success as Britain's finest Ambassador of trade. During the past decade, His Royal Highness has travelled over 100,000 miles, spent a part of everyone of these ten years, except 1926, journeying in different parts of the Empire and beyond, including India, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, the United States, Malaya, China, Japan, Egypt, Kenya, Tanganyika, Nigeria, and the West Indies. He visited South America in 1925. He is certain to receive a warm welcome in Argentina, where the national imagination is captured by the unique British effort to make the Exhibition a real "Empire shop window."

BENEATH THE WATER LINE.

The Eye of the Salvage Officer.

Salty as sea-weed is the glamorous calling of deep water diving. The helmet is as characteristic of the sea as is the anchor. Working alone, in the most ruthless of the elements, the diver is and deserves to be one of the traditional figures of bravery, writes Robert D. MacMillen, Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corp. Homer in the Iliad sang of these naked heroes. Thucydides records how at the siege of Syracuse, divers went down to clear away the cunningly placed obstructions meant to bar the Grecian ships from the harbour. Alexander the Great employed divers at the siege of Tyre to destroy the submarine defences of the beleaguered city.

But it is not of the wars of bygone kings nor of these "one breath" mermen of the past that one thinks to-day. It is of the courage, the skill, the amazing resourcefulness of the modern guild of divers, who have brought new developments to this trade which was a thousand years old when the Christian era came. These men, cased in their precarious armour of canvas and rubber and weighted with metal, the very breath of life pumped down to them from the free air above, can do with their hands almost any task that a skilled mechanic can do on dry land.

The diver is literally the "eyes" of the salvage officer, though seldom can he see as much as a foot ahead in the murky waters of our harbours. With cunning hands and photographic memory, he comes back from the bottom with reports so accurate and revealing that rescue plans are built around them with utmost confidence. His tools are usually of the simplest; a chunky sledge and a substantial sheath knife are the principal ones; yet every part of that hammer and every part of that knife is a definite unit of measurement to the diver, as handy to read as a foot rule.

A Versatile Craft.

The diver, however, is by no means a mere observer. His is a versatile craft, utilizing ability and experience of many kinds, in a great variety of work other than ship salvage. Imagine the ingenuity required of a man who must go down under the black waters of a harbour and measure a jagged hole, maybe twenty feet square, in the side of a sunken vessel; measure it so accurately that when he fits his patch, again in the dark, the result will be entirely watertight! These patches may be of wood, constructed on the deck of the salvage steamer, or they may be of concrete, lowered down through the water in a canvas bucket and tamped into the forms by a sense of feel. He is a master in the use of air drills, dynamite and the underwater cutting torch, in breaking up and preparing for removal of vessels which are damaged beyond recovery and are a menace to navigation. It is he who, under the salvage officer's direction, sets the slings around heavy submerged burdens so that the derricks may lift them with safety and precision.

One of the most novel and interesting of the diver's tools is the under-water cutting torch. Almost everybody, passing along the street at some time has shielded his eyes from the blinding glare of the oxy-acetylene torch or the electric arc in action. It is a fascinating and familiar sight. But, for obvious reasons, almost no one has ever seen the oxy-electric under-water cutting torch at work except the divers who operate such torches and a handful of others who have watched small-scale demonstrations in glass tanks. This in spite of the fact that this torch has been successfully used in subaqueous operations since 1918 and has been an important aid in salvaging literally millions of dollars' value in sunken ships.

When an under-water cutting torch was first considered it was thought that acetylene flame could be combined with an electric arc; but tests soon showed that the acetylene was unnecessary and moreover that its explosive character, when under any considerable water pressure, was an actual danger. The torch finally adopted therefore, employs a combination of the electric arc and compressed oxygen from cylinders. This is the chief difference from the usual type of torch seen on dry land. But the difference is vital because it nullifies the dangers caused by the high conductivity of water as a carrier of electric currents. The heat of the electric arc is so terrific that it tansforms the adjacent icy water into steam, a constantly forming bubble or blanket of steam in which the arc functions while the oxygen under pressure oxidizes and blows out the molten metal from the cut.

The essentials of this patented method are simple. It utilized electricity from a generator and oxygen from cylinders. A rubber hose encloses an electrical conductor and also carries the oxygen down to the diver, thus supplying the electrode, which has orifices for oxygen. The diver establishes the circuit by connecting one lead from the generator to the plate to be cut and, torch in hand, striking his arc.

It was the s.s. St. Paul which, in 1918, first benefited by the process and provided the first opportunities for experiment. This vessel turned completely over on its side and sank between two piers in the North River, New York. The salvage plan required the cutting of large drainage holes from adjoining compartments into the ventilators so that mud and water would drain into the holds, there to be removed by pump suctions; also, several 18-inch diameter holes were cut through bulkheads. Five months and two days later, the St. Paul was delivered afloat, the raising having been considerably facilitated by the under-water cutting operations, which were done at a depth of fifty feet below the surface.

The practicability of the method thus firmly established, there came many opportunities to put it to use and perfect the technique.

A great liner recently came into New York Harbour with two manganese bronze propeller blades so bent that she lost one knot an hour speed. In the 48 hours she lay there, the two bent sections were cut free by the torch method, under-water. She sailed on time.

A LONG TRIP.

Stockholm, Jan. 11.

Reports from Panama chronicle the arrival of Capt. Anders Johannson, who is said to be sailing the yacht Gullmarn single-handed to Australia.

She is a fishing cutter of the Kosterboat type, used for fishing throughout the Swedish west coast.

Capt. Johannson and five other fishermen are going to Australia, intending to carry on fishing there. If their experiment on the Australian coast succeeds, probably more will go there.

MASTER MARINERS.

ANNUAL BANQUET HELD ON CUNARD LINER.

The third annual banquet of the Southampton Master Mariners' Club was held in appropriate settings on the Cunard liner Aquitania as she was lying in the Ocean Dock.

As in previous years, it was attended by a large number of people distinguished in the realm of shipping, the guest of honour being Major-General the Right Hon. J. E. B. Seely, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, who was enrolled as a "stowaway," or honorary member. Two of the other "stowaways," the Lord Bishop of Winchester and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., were also present, and were presented with illuminated addresses recording enrolment, while but for unavoidable absence, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe would have been the recipient of a similar presentation.

The club's two oldest members were also present, namely, Sir Walter Runciman, Bart., J.P., the veteran shipowner, and Captain Duncan Forbes, F.R.A.S., both of whom are octogenarians.

Captain J. G. Saunders, O.B.E., R.D., the "captain" of the club, presided, and the principal toast was that of "The Sea Services," ably proposed by Major-General Seely and responded to by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes and Sir Walter Runciman.

ARRIVALS OF SHIPS.

Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Laganbank, British str., 3,453 tons, Capt. T. E. Alexander, from Manila, Laichikok Wharf.—Bank Line.

Tanda, British str., 4,236 tons, Capt. E. Pilcher, from Moji, Kowloon Wharf.—M. M. & Co.

Thursday, Feb. 26.

Chaksang, British str., 1,470 tons, Capt. J. McAnish, from Swatow, West Point Wharf.—J. M. & Co.

Chojun Maru, Japanese str., 1,324 tons, Capt. Y. Maki, from Chefoo, Yaumati Anchorage.—D.K.K.

Corato, British str., 3,476 tons, Capt. J. Finlayson, from Balikpapan, North Point Wharf.—A.P.C.

Kingyuan, British str., 1,546 tons, Capt. J. D. Whyte, from Hoihow, buoy No. B3.—B. & S.

Kwongsang British str., 1,428 tons, Capt. H. R. Dobson, from Canton, buoy No. B1.—J. M. & Co.

Lyeemoon, British str., 1,784 tons, Capt. E. Holmes, from Swatow, buoy No. B23.—Kwong Nam & Co.

Rawalpindi, British str., 16,697 tons, Capt. R. H. Stringer, from London, Kowloon Wharf.—M. M. & Co.

Tilawa, British str., 10,006 tons, Capt. E. Coleborn, from Straits and Singapore, Kowloon Wharf.—M. M. & Co.

WARSHIPS IN PORT.

The following British warships were in harbour to-day:—

Bridgewater—South wall.
Bruce—No. 8 buoy.
Cicala—No. 7 buoy.
Cumberland—West wall.
Herald—East wall.
Hermes—No. 1 buoy.
Jroquois—East wall.
Kent—North arm
Marazion—No. 4 buoy.
Medway—No. 2 buoy.
Odin—No. 2 buoy.
Osiris—In dock
Oswald—In dock.
Otus—No. 2 buoy.
Petersfield—North arm.
Sandwich—No. 13 buoy.
Sepoy—No. 10 buoy.
Seraph—No. 12 buoy.
Serapis—No. 11 buoy.
Sirdar—South wall.
Sterling—In dock.
Suffolk—North wall.
Tamar—Basin.
Tarantula—South wall.
Thracian—No. 12 buoy.

Foreign Man-of-War.
Chung Shan—Chinese gunboat.

PILOTS' GRIEVANCE.

Services Refused By Foreign Vessels.

The immunity of foreign vessels from engaging pilots in the navigation of the English waterways was referred to at the annual dinner of the Tugmen's Guild, in London.

Mr. G. R. Fone, a Thames waterman, and a tugboat skipper for more than sixty years, referred to the position whereby foreign vessels could enter English ports without employing a waterman, while no British or other foreign vessel might enter a Continental port without employing a pilot, and, even if a pilot was not available, pilotage dues had to be paid.

"The action of these foreigners in refusing the services of a Thames waterman as pilot," added Mr. Fone, "is depriving Englishmen of a living. It is a disgrace to our nation."

STEAMERS' MOVEMENTS.

The C.P.S. R.M.S. Empress of Canada will berth at Pier No. 5, Kowloon Wharf, at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 2. She will leave here for Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., via Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama at noon on March 5 (Thursday), and, connecting with Duchess of Richmond, is due at Liverpool on April 4.

The C.P.S. R.M.S. Empress of Asia arrived at Yokohama on February 25 (Wed.) at 1 p.m., left Yokohama on February 26 (Thurs.) at 3 p.m., and is due at Vancouver on March 7 (Sat.). She leaves Vancouver on March 14 (Sat.).

A WAR MISTAKE.

WHEN BRITISH GUNNERS FIRED ON J-BOAT.

London, Jan. 9.

How the gunners on a Q-ship—one of Britain's mystery ships during the war—misread the identification letters on a British submarine, and sank it with the loss of 19 of its crew, is told for the first time in By Guess and By God, a book by William Carr Guy, just published.

The book takes its title from the wartime watchword of the "trade"—the submarine service. It is a noble tribute to naval discipline, and one of the grimmest service reports ever written.

An enquiry into the tragic mistake exonerated the Q-boat officers, and congratulated the gun crews on the accuracy of their aim. When officers of the Q-boat left the courtroom, the survivors of the sunken submarine came to attention and saluted them.

Visibility Tricky.

The vessels concerned were the submarines J6 and an old topsail schooner expensively transformed into a Q-boat.

Its commander was an experienced officer, who many times had been decorated for gallantry.

The Q-boat was keenly watching near Blyth for German submarines going down the English Channel.

In tricky visibility two British submarines passed safely after recognition, but when the J6 hove in sight the Q-boat crew, crouching behind camouflaged guns, whispered tensely, "It's a Fritz!"

It was afterwards ascertained that something hanging from the conning tower completed the left vertical line of the J, transforming it into a U, and leading to the impression that the submarine was the U6, and therefore a German vessel.

Opens Pointblank Fire.

The Q-boat commander immediately cried, "Break out the ensign—fire!"

The ensign drooped, and was not identifiable because of the absence of wind. The submarine's flag was run up, but that was possibly immaterial, because a previous German submarine had escaped by showing a British ensign, thus causing the captain of the Q-boat to withhold fire.

The Q-boat dropped down its screens and opened independent pointblank fire. The first shot smashed the arm of a man standing on the conning tower of the submarine, who was about to fire a recognition sign from a rifle; and killed an officer beside him.

The second shell pierced the waterline of the submarine, and wrecked the control room. Then the four-inch gun of the Q-boat registered a direct hit.

An officer sprang on to the after hatch of the submarine frantically waving a white cloth. The Q-boat ceased fire, but reopened it as the submarine entered a fog-bank, signalling with an arc lamp, "Help, help, help."

Realisation.

The Q-boat crew were cursing at missing it when the fog rose like a theatre curtain, disclosing the submarine dead ahead, its bows aloft, conning tower awash, and men struggling round a newly launched collapsible boat.

The Q-boat headed for the spot, and its officers were stunned to perceive H.M. Submarines on the caps of the men. Each vessel had thought that the other was an enemy.

Fifteen of the 34 men on the submarine were saved, Q-boat sailors diving to the rescue of the swimmers one of whom was holding up the commander.

SOVIET SHIPPING.

102 New Vessels Being Built During Winter Months.

Moscow, Jan. 26.

In order to improve communications and transport facilities the present winter months are being used for constructing 102 new steamers and repairing a large number of old vessels doing service on or destined for traffic on the river Volga, the central economic authorities having just granted for this purpose the funds demanded by the local organs.

DRAMA OF THE SEA.

Crew Hold Fast To Burning Ship.

New York, Jan. 26.

Glowing tributes to the bravery of the crew of the British steamer, the Queen Moor, when fire broke out on that ship, were paid by the crew of the American cargo steamer, the Jeff Davis, which has returned here.

They declare that the Queen Moor's engineers and firemen tended the engines till the bulk-heads became so hot that their hair was signed and they were forced to go on deck.

Although the Jeff Davis was standing by the crew of the Queen Moor continued their efforts, going without food for twenty-four hours.

At length the ship was abandoned and the Queen Moor's crew came on board the Jeff Davis.

One Cockney called for three cheers for the Americans. At Aden a tug was then sighted and so the Queen Moor's crew were transferred to the tug which towed their ship to Aden.

MOHAMEDAN STOWAWAY.

Victim of A Riot in Burma.

When a Tamil Mohamedan named Abdul Rahman was charged in the Penang Police Court with being a stowaway aboard the Tairea on her voyage from Rangoon to Penang, he pleaded guilty. He added:

"It's true that I stowed away. I was at one time a petty trader at Tharrawady, (Burma), but my shop was looted and burned when riots broke out in the Tharrawady district recently. I was deprived of a livelihood and I therefore had to come over here."

Court Inspector Nunn said that the Master of the Tairea had given a report to the Marine Police and in the course of that had stated that the accused was discovered on the deck without a ticket when the vessel was at sea between Rangoon and Penang.

His Worship fined the accused $25 or 3 weeks' imprisonment in default.

"Three weeks. That's all right!" exclaimed the accused as he left the dock.

Nova Scotia apple shipments through the Port of Halifax this season have passed the quarter million mark, at 258,728 barrels as compared with 196,420 barrels for the similar period of last year.

THE JULES VERNE.

FIRST SUBMARINE DEPOT SHIP.

Saigon, Feb. 4.

Lorient (Bay of Biscay): There was launched here yesterday the Jules Verne, the first supply ship for submarines.

Visitors to the Fort Anne National Park, Annapolis Royal, during the past tourist season numbered approximately 16,000 as compared with 13,184 for the previous season. Of this year's visitors 11,704 registered and were shown through the museum.

HONG KONG TIDES.

The time used is Standard, or mean time of the meridian of 120 deg. E.; 00h. is midnight, 12hrs. is noon. The heights are referred to the datum of the largest scale Admiralty chart of the place and should be *added* to the depths given on the chart unless preceded by an asterisk (*), when they should be *subtracted* from the depths.

February 27 to March 5, 1931.

Date		High Water		Low Water	
	Feb	Standard Times	Ht	Standard Times	Ht.
		H. M	F	H. M.	F.
Fri.	27	15 34	5·9	—	—
Sat.	28	—	—	00 42	1·8
		17 22	[illegible]	—	—
Sun.	1	09 44	3·9	01 35	0·3
		18 46	[illegible]	11 46	3·9
Mon.	2	09 58	4·1	02 30	0·3
		19 48	7·2	13 01	0·5
Tues	3	09 54	4·5	2 19	3·1
		20 4[illegible]	7·7	13 55	0·0
Wed	4	10 14	4·5	02 35	1·2
		21 29	7·8	14 46	0·3
Thurs	5	10 28	5·1	04 10	1·3
		22 16	7·5	15 33	2·4

Donations and Subscriptions must now be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Goldsmith, 525, The Peak.

HONG KONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

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Hong Kong, Friday, Feb. 27, 1931.

TASK FOR EXPERTS

The news of the visit to Hong Kong of three experts to enquire into our currency problems, as hopeful an augury as it may be for the distant future, appears to have had no beneficial effect on the exchange, which yesterday dropped to 10⅞. Any optimism that might have been felt in connection with the visit, which is long overdue, has been counteracted by the statement that no immediate action is to be taken. This means that the report of the Commission's findings, which may take some time to prepare, will first have to be submitted to the Secretary for the Colonies, Lord Passfield, for his consideration, and it is extremely unlikely that any recommendations which may be made will take effect until one or even two years have elapsed. In the interim, the Labour Government may be replaced by another Party Government, which is likely to reverse in many instances its predecessor's Colonial policy, whether it be Liberal or Tory; and, in addition, economic and currency conditions in China may have become so bad in a year's time that the findings of the present Commission may no longer be tenable or cope in any useful manner with the existing financial situation.

The above views may seem pessimistic, but there is a great deal of doubt prevailing in business and banking circles in the Colony as to whether the experts will be able to devise a means of solving our silver problems quite so easily as the Colonial Office would appear to believe. The local Currency Committee, it is true, did not get very far, and whether Mr. Clauson and his colleagues will be able to devise a scheme far above the mental ingenuity of our bankers, brokers, and Unofficial members is exceedingly problematical. They will, it is to be presumed, "explore the avenues of approach" (to use a favourite term of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald) by wading through the memorandum of the local Committee until they come against what a correspondent termed rather facetiously as the "blank wall," which is to be interpreted as the findings of the local Committee. It will be recalled that, after the first meeting of the Committee on April 7, the following statement was issued: "The meeting was unanimously agreed in their opinion that no reason had hitherto appeared to show that the use by Hong Kong of a currency based on any other metallic standard of value than that prevailing in the neighbouring country of China would be anything but detrimental to the interests of the Colony."

The Committee was severely criticised for making this statement before receiving any evidence, although it had obtained the public's views on the question of the desirability of a gold standard. The Home Commission should have little difficulty in disposing of the above objection to stabilisation, because it is not sound finance and is in the interests of a small section of the community only. Presumably, too, they will not concern themselves overmuch with the fond belief of some that Hong Kong is bound by the laws of Nature to follow the currency of China. The Committee's opinion that the present currency system suffers because of the premium of notes over silver and because it is difficult to handle and store may receive scant attention, because the former is an effect rather than a cause, but the suggestion that a more extended use be made of silver bullion and that the deposit of dead-weight currency in the Colony through adjustment of interest rates be discouraged, are both deserving of very careful consideration. The rest is a matter of history; the collapse of silver really dates back to the political disturbance of 1925, after which its downward trend was counteracted by a premium on Hong Kong bank notes. This premium subsequently became unweildy and necessitated a reversion to the strictly silver standard established by law.

The Commission will have to find, firstly, what has brought about the slump in silver; secondly, how Hong Kong may best adjust its currency to that of gold-using countries without undue loss; and, thirdly, whether the Colony's trade would ultimately benefit by stabilisation on a gold standard. It is impossible to forecast the likely trend of their findings, but, whatever they are, it will be a matter of vexation to some and of comfort to others that they are not to be expected to come into effect for a considerable time.

News in Brief.

One Chinese case of typhoid fever was notified yesterday.

For leaving his car unattended in Canton Road on February 16, Mr. C. E. Terry was fined $5 at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning.

The ordinary yearly meeting of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., is advertised to be held on Thursday, April 16, at 11.30 a.m.

The Japanese Consul-General forwards a copy of the 30th Financial and Economic Annual of Japan, issued by the Department of Finance.

Shareholders of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation are reminded that the annual meeting takes place to-morrow in the City Hall at 11.30 a.m.

Silk forwarded from here by the Empress of Japan on February 5 arrived in New York (St. John's Park) and Hoboken on February 24, having been 19 days in transit.

For stealing a camera, the property of Wong Chin-pang, of No 19, Reclamation Street, Man Shui-Sang was in the Kowloon Court to-day sent to jail for three weeks.

While Chief Engineer Robertson, of the s.s. Tilawa, which went alongside No. 2 wharf at Kowloon Godowns yesterday, was in town, someone gained access to his cabin through a porthole and stole clothing worth $30.

Mr. Wilkinson, second engineer of the R.F.A. Kharki, reports to the Police that between February 24 and 26 some person stole from his cabin a gold wrist watch valued at £10 and a silver wrist watch valued at $15.

Suffering from an injury to his right hand, whilst engaged at work in the Hong Kong Rope Factory, Kennedy Town, a Chinese, Cheung Kam-hoi (20), of 5, Wing Wa Road, was removed to the Government Civil Hospital.

An audacious thief took the opportunity of stealing a gold watch from the back of No. 3, Austin Road at about 7 p.m., yesterday. The amah who left the watch on her bed while she was taking a bath in an adjoining room, saw the man come and go, but was unable to describe him.

Mrs. Baxter, of No. 21, Humphrey's Buildings, has reported to the Water Police Station the loss of £4 10s. and jewellery to the value of $126, her premises having been burgled on February 18, while she was away. It appears that the thief obtained entrance by approaching an open window from the roof.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POPSY AT THE DANCE.

[To the Editor of "China Mail."]

My dear,—I didn't see you at the Dance. No invitation? How galling, my dear, but anyhow there's St. Patrick's and the Volunteer's though they *are* different arent they.

Simply all the best people were there and all trying so bravely to show they weren't haunted by the Sceptre of Poverty. But the frocks, my dear, too utterly economical and practically *no* backs, only what the Observatory man calls "a V-shaped despression between the Bonins. *Nothing lavish, my dear, but Angus* said he'd never seen so much waist.

And there wasn't a collection though Tubby said there was sure to be as the Government has simply *no* money left, but everything was quite free and heaps of people simply *hibernated* in the supper room and ate like Indian Famine Victims—too glutinous, my dear, but the poor things hadn't been able to afford a meal for weeks.

And the Bar, my dear! Did Arty miss His Bottle? I trow not. Why, they clung like molluscs and got so damp they became positively fungoid.

And, Oh, those uniforms! Just too scintillating, my dear, and the glittering satrap who took me to supper says its *real* cold and no wonder there's none in circulation. Angus said we would have stabilised the dollar at 2/- with the braid off their trousers and why weren't the Commissionaires there to take them off but they couldn't have done that with us there, could they. How terribly thinking to wear 18 carrot pants, my dear.

Tubby says there were quantities of civil servants there simply *reeking* of confidential dollars and flaunting their mis-begotten gains —too leprous, my dear, sort of Calf's Head at the Feast you know, and I say they really ought to be insulated because they *do* tarnish the air.

Your terpsicorean,
POPSY.

Hong Kong, February 27.

A.D.C. PRICES.

[To the Editor of "China Mail."]

Sir,—With reference to the Amateur Dramatic Club's forthcoming production of "Art and Mrs. Bottle," I notice from the posters that prices for seats are to be $3.50, $2.50 and $1.50 as against $3, $2 and $1 charged hitherto. The new prices include Amusement Tax and the advertised increase in respect of the Stalls and Dress Circle is understandable, but, unless there is some very good reason for it, it doesn't seem to me quite fair on the pit patrons to jump the price 50 per cent. while the presumably more affluent play-goer is only affected to the extent of about 16 per cent.

Some friends of mine who enjoyed the play at Home have strongly advised me to see it, but I am a man of small means and don't feel like paying $1.50 when I think $1.10 more consistent.

As Theatre prices are a matter of public interest I hope you will insert this letter.

Yours, etc.,
PITITE.

Hong Kong, February 26.

TRAMWAY COMPANY'S BUS LOSSES

(Continued from Page 1.)

have understood it, but when I tell you that within the last six or seven months orders have been placed for 300 tramcars for the London area alone at a total cost of £840,000 and that 100 of these tramcars are for the group of tramway companies controlled by Lord Ashfield, who is Chairman of the London General Omnibus Company, you will realise that the Royal Commission on Transport has slipped up.

One other reference. Mr. J. G. B. Stone, Chairman of the Calcutta Tramways Company, in delivering his speech at the last annual general meeting in London said:—

"The suggestion that tramway systems are obsolete and should be replaced by omnibuses has been assiduously fostered, but it seems evident that if such substitution is made the poorer classes will have to pay more for their travel, and rate-payers generally will have to bear increased charges for the maintenance of their roads. In Calcutta only a small portion of the people can afford to ride at all, and for them the cheapest form of transport is essential."

Losses In Kowloon.

At this meeting I have also to refer to the affairs of the Kai Tack Motor Bus Co (1926), Ltd. As in the case of your motor-buses on this side of the harbour I have to report losses. We have now completed two years' operation of this subsidiary in Kowloon and I regret to say that for various reasons which could hardly have been foreseen at the time it was made, this investment has not turned out as successfully as we hoped.

For the year under review, after providing for depreciation, the Kai Tack Company has made a loss on working of $47,894.

During the year two new taxes were imposed upon us, firstly, the seating tax of $10 per seat per annum which accounts for $5,560 annually and, secondly, the petrol tax of 15 cents per gallon which—on the 1930 consumption at Kai Tack — represents $15,600 per annum

Effect of Low Exchange.

Serious though these items are to a small business the consequences of the drop in the value of the local dollar are much more serious. To take one item; tyres for the whole of 1929 cost less than tyres during the four months August—November 1930.

Petrol (apart from the tax) was not affected in 1930 because of our annual contract. At the present moment, however, the price we are paying for petrol (including tax) is 130 per cent. greater than the price we were paying this time last year.

Although the reign of petrol would now appear to be challenged by the advent of the Diesel or compression ignition engine using crude oil the fact remains that even with buses fitted with Diesel engines a considerable annual deficit could not be avoided on the Kai Tack system while the dollar remains anywhere near its present level and while the prevailing competition continues.

Mr. Herbert Morrison P.C., M.P. (Minister of Transport) in a recent speech said:—

"In the 19th century they were told that free competition in road transport was the great thing, and that it would provide cheapness and efficiency. There was practically no business man of repute who to-day would say that that was a sound commercial doctrine.

Competition in road transport meant that time-tables were unrelated and that there was lack of contact between different forms of transport, which meant empty seats. People appreciated empty seats, but these were the economies not of wisdom but of bedlam. The empty seat had to be paid for either by capital, in the shape of bad services, bad vehicles, and bankruptcy, or by the passengers in needlessly high fares for those who did travel, uncomfortable and unsafe vehicles, inefficient services, and a poor quality of transport worker."

The Only Solution.

One almost feels that Mr. Morrison must have had Kowloon in his mind when he used those words.

Your Board is convinced that the only solution of the Kowloon road transport problem lies:—

(a) in the substitution of unified control and single management for the existing reckless competition and duplication of services.

(b) in a franchise of not less than 20 years with the option—at the absolute discretion of the operating Company—of employing either trolley vehicles or Diesel-engined buses or both in lieu of or in addition to ordinary petrol vehicles.

It will be recalled that at the date of the annual meeting last year reference was made to the commencement of certain negotiations with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., in regard to its motor-bus and garage services. The abortive results of those negotiations were conveyed to you fully at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on May 7 last and in the private report of that meeting subsequently circulated to all shareholders of the Company.

Turning to the statement of the year's accounts now before you, I have already remarked upon the gratifying increase of $105,986.90 in traffic revenue. Working expenses have also risen but to an extent that is only a fraction more than 10 per cent. over last year and, in view of general conditions arising from the seriously adverse exchange obtaining throughout the year, such rising costs have been inevitable and the measure of the increase as shown may be viewed as by no means disproportionate to the circumstances.

The depreciation charge has also accounted for a sum of $19,575 more than the previous year.

Net Profit For Year.

After providing for royalty and including the return from interest and Investment sources, etc.—and this particular account is an inclusive item after setting-off the net result of the tramways motor-bus working—the net profit for the year amounts to $741,295.68 which is $9,532.10 greater than for the year 1929.

$68,000 has been written-off from goodwill and construction expenses as before and the further item of $150,000 also written-off represents, in the opinion of your Board, a reasonable provision that must be made against a revaluation of the Kai Tack Motor-Bus investment in the light of what I have already said in that regard and the losses being incurred by that company and the fact that these losses are financed by the Tramway Company.

The sum of $260,000 has been applied in the interim dividend already paid and your Directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 40 cents per share, making a total of 80 cents per share for the year.

This will absorb a further $260,000 and leaves after including $259,552.75 brought in from the last account $262,848.43 to be carried forward.

(Continued on Page 7.)

Ten Years Ago.

[From the "China Mail" of February 27, 1921.]

To-day's dollar is worth 2/5 ½.

* * *

A Japanese named K. Saglora was arrested yesterday on a charge of boarding a train while in motion, but was allowed out on bail.

TRAMWAY COMPANY'S BUS LOSSES

(Continued from Page 6.)

Land Investment.

I think there is only one other item in these accounts calling for separate explanation. An addition of $83,636.10 appears to the asset "Other Property" in the balance sheet. This is in respect of a purchase of land in Kowloon carried through during the year and there is every prospect that such an investment will prove to be a profitable one.

I now have to propose:—

"That the report of the Directors and statement of accounts as presented for the year ended December 31, 1930, be adopted and that a final dividend of 40 cents per share for the year 1930 is hereby sanctioned.

When the adoption of the resolution has been seconded I shall be pleased to reply to any questions that shareholders may wish to ask

MR. T. E. PEARCE.

Mr. T. E. Pearce, in seconding the resolution, said:—

I feel sure shareholders present to-day have listened to, and many others will read later, your remarks, Mr. Chairman, with much interest and satisfaction.

I do not wish to revive the controversy as to the merits of buses as opposed to trams, but it seems clear from the figures you have produced to-day, the policy of the Board in improving the tracks and the trams themselves has been fully justified.

It must be highly gratifying to the executive of the Company to find that the system was able to cope with such a large number of passengers as 29,000,000 last year, or 2,000,000 more than the one before. With the rapid development in Wanchai and district, the prospects would appear to be bright for a further increase during this 12 months.

Even to the uninitiated it must be obvious that to assist in the development and to maintain the prosperity of any district, it is essential to have cheap and rapid means of transport. I think shareholders will agree with me our undertaking adequately meets this need, and it is satisfactory to observe the public supports it in increasing numbers.

Bus Company Losses.

It is disappointing to learn that our buses in Hong Kong have been run at a loss, but no doubt the board have decided that it is good policy to run them as an adjunct to our tram business.

It is also most disappointing to learn the Company has made a loss on the Kai Tack Motor Bus venture, and with the increased heavy charges you have spoken of, it does not seem possible that any better result can be looked for at the end of this year.

In view of the increased taxation, higher costs of petrol and rubber tyres, due to the low exchange, one wonders, in spite of the fact that their buses may traverse more populous areas, whether our competitors in Kowloon will be able to show profits, and at the same time provide for depreciation and replacements.

Kowloon Traffic Problem.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, an opportune time for all concerned, property owners as well as Bus Companies, for a careful survey of the traffic problem in Kowloon to be undertaken, and a scheme evolved whereby there will be less overlapping and unnecessary competition, and, furthermore, a scheme devised for a cheaper and better system of transport to meet the needs of the increasing population of the Peninsula.

With these few remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Kowloon Route No. 5.

Captain Riggs rose to enquire why, when the Kowloon Route No. 5 was opened it could not have been started with a ten cent fare instead of five. There were no coolies travelling on the route, so that consideration of the poorer classes did not enter into the matter. As it was, everybody travelled for five cents, when they could pay ten, as on other sections.

In reply, the Chairman said that the Kai Tack Company realised that on the residential Route No. 5 there should be only a ten cent fare for adults. The Police, however, would not sanction this.

The report and accounts, then put to the meeting, were unanimously adopted.

Other Business.

The Hon. Mr. C. G. S. Mackie and Mr. Choa Po-sien were re-elected Directors, on the proposal of Captain Riggs seconded by Mr. Wm. Allen.

Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. H. Owen Hughes, seconded by Mr. Chua Seng-choo.

Those Present.

Supporting the Chairman were the Hon. Mr. C. G. S. Mackie, Messrs. R. Stock, J. E. Joseph, and Choa Po-sien (Directors), Mr. L. C. F. Bellamy (General Manager), and Mr. W. F. Simmons, F.C.I.S. (Secretary).

Shareholders present were Captain C. B. Riggs, Messrs. T. E. Pearce, H. Owen Hughes, E. Ezra, Frank Austin, Wm. Allen, J. F. Wright, jun., G. H. Wilson, Leung Wa-hing and Chua Seng-choo.

"How convenient keyholes are when one wants to see without being seen."—

Buen Humor, Madrid.

COMPANY DIVIDEND.

THE HONG KONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

Subject to audit, the General Managers of the Hong Kong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., report that the balance at credit of Profit & Loss Account for the year ended December 31, 1930, is $183,034.49 which, with $159,122.98 brought forward from the previous year, makes a total of $342,157.47 available for appropriation.

The Directors will, at the forthcoming meeting of shareholders, recommend the following distribution:—

To pay a dividend of 75 cents per share, absorbing	$150,000.00
To place to credit of Typhoon & Flood Account	5,000.00
To write off factory buildings at Matauokok	100,000.00
To write off Plant and Machinery	17,157.47
To carry forward to credit of next year's account	70,000.00
	$342,157.47

One of the largest shipments of frogs in district history was made the other day by Ross and Frank Pollock who, with Henry Mann, forwarded 80 pounds, dressed, to New York City. They obtained the supply along the marshes of Trent River and Rice Lake.

FASHIONABLE JEWELLERY.

Amongst the fashionable jewellery are very lovely shoe buckles, which are nowadays as carefully chosen as necklaces, and just as expensive. There are lovely buckles combining two colours. A square design has a crystal in the centre, surrounded by diamante, and such odd modes as a pair, one with green centre-piece and the other yellow are considered modish. Among the buckles that do match are three-piece stones, the centre coloured, richly or palely, between white oblongs. The buckles which twinkle at every footsteps are to be seen in abundance, and there are many women who prefer uncut stones, in colours harmonising with their dress scheme.

FINE PLEATING.

Where thick materials are concerned, fine pleating, as well as box-pleating, is in fashion, and costumes of checked suiting in blue or brown have skirts box-pleated into hitting hip yokes, which may be well stitched as a self-trimming. Under three-quarter coats, or thick wool marocains, plain or figured, there are fancy pleatings, but always the outline is slim and simple-looking. For tennis on the Riviera, finely pleated marocain skirts are being made to go with white blouses, or sleeveless jumpers of white and yellow wools.

The Maritime Provinces of Canada, which have moved forward rapidly in the matter of co-operative marketing, have now perfected the organisation of a co-operative council for the three provinces concerned, to co-ordinate the efforts of the five co-operatives functioning in these provinces. These five groups do a total annual business of more than $5,000,000, in the estimate of the Summerside Journal."

The Saint John Harbour Commission announces that two large Canadian industries are negotiating for sites along the water front for manufacturing plants.

BANDIT HORROR RECALLED.

Bishop Versiglia's Trust Estate.

A NATIVE OF ITALY.

The terrible bandit outrage at Shiu Pin, Kwangtung, on February 25 last year, when Bishop Versiglia was foully murdered, is recalled by the grant of letters of administration for trust funds in his hands to Carlo Braga, a Salesian Father, of 179, Third Street, Hong Kong (St. Louis Industrial School). The estate, consisting of properties of the Salesian Mission, is valued at $42,700.

Bishop Versiglia was attached to the Catholic Mission at Chiu Chow, Kwangtung. He was Titular Bishop of Caristo, Italy, and Vicar Apostolic of Shiu Chow. He was 57 years old when he met his tragic fate. A native of Italy, he left behind his mother, Maria Versiglia, and two sisters, Cesarina Faravelli, and Carolina Sarolli.

Chinese Estates.

Tam In-fung, alias Tam Sui-ki, who died at 6, Illumination Terrace, Hong Kong, on September 30 last, left estate valued at $31,000. Probate has been granted to Wong Fi-wan, his widow.

Leung Shu-chuen, who died at Nam Tong Village, Kwangtung, on February 3 last, left estate valued at $21,500. Probate has been granted to Leung Chok-po and Leung Yat-lim, merchants.

STABBED WITH PENKNIFE.

A stabbing affray occurred at the Po Hing Theatre, Nathan Road, last night, as the result of which Wong Pak-yan (28) stated to be employed by the Hop Yik firm of building contractors, is now in the Kowloon Hospital. His condition is not serious.

It is alleged that Wong was stabbed with a penknife by an unknown Chinese with whom he had quarrelled outside the theatre.

SHADOWS BEFORE

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCED IN CHINA MAIL.

Social Functions.

To-day—Tea and Dinner Dances at Hong Kong Hotel.

To-day—Whist Drive, Helena May Institute, Kowloon, 8.45 p.m.

To-night — Farewell Dinner to British Economic Mission, Peninsula Hotel.

To-morrow—Eliot Hall annual concert and dance, 8 p.m.

To-morrow—St. David's Society Dinner, Lane Crawford's.

To-morrow — Craigengower Cricket Club Dance.

To-morrow—R. A. O. C. Dance.

March 5—R.A.O.B., Regalia Dance, Garrison Lecture Hall.

March 20—Yorkshire Society Dinner.

Entertainments.

To-day — Queen's Theatre, "Blackmail."

To-day — Central Theatre "True to the Navy."

To-day — Majestic Theatre; "Vagabond King."

To-day — Star Theatre. "Ben-Hur."

To-day—World Theatre, "Hung Lin Tsi," (Chinese picture).

To-day — Song Recital (Miss M. Gomes), Helena May Institute. 5.30 p.m.

March 7, 10, 13, 14—"Art & Mrs. Bottle" by A.D.C., Theatre Royal, 9.15 p.m.

Home Mail.

To-day—Inward from Europe via Siberia (President Cleveland).

To-morrow—Outward for Europe via Marseilles (Malwa), 10.30 a.m.

Sports.

See Diary on page 8.

Meetings.

To-morrow—Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, City Hall, 11.30 a.m.

March 5—H.K., Canton, Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., Queen's Building, 11 a.m.

March 11—Hong Kong Telephone Co., Ltd., Exchange Building (2nd floor), 11.30 a.m.

March 18—Green Island Cement Co., Exchange Building, 11.30 a.m.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

THE EXCHANGE BANKS will OPEN at 9.30 a.m. and will CLOSE at 12 Noon, for the Transaction of Public Business on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th March (Race Meeting).

Hong Kong, 26th Feb., 1931.

NOTICE.

RACE MEETING.

ON MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, March 2, 3, and 4, 1931, all Departments will be CLOSED at 1 p.m.

On These Days,

The Hong Kong Dispensary, Dispensing Department, will be opened for the purpose of dispensing prescriptions from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

Hong Kong, February 27, 1931.

ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB.

TREVESSA TROPHY RACE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next BI-ANNUAL RACE for the above Trophy will be sailed on TUESDAY, March 24, 1931.

Course:—Start from Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rock (P), Mark boat off Yacht Club (S), Mark boat off Cust Rock Beacon (P), Finish at Yacht Club across line. West to East and leaving markboat to Port.

Applications for Entry should reach me on or before noon on Monday, March 23.

R. J. VERNALL,
Hon. Secretary.

R.H.K.Y.C., February 24, 1931.

G. R.

NOTICE.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS DURING THE RACES, 1931.

I. All vehicles going to the Races at Wong-Nei-Chung will proceed via Arsenal Street, Hennessy Road, Percival Street, Leighton Hill Road and round the Happy Valley via Wong-Nei-Chung Road to the entrance gates.

Vehicles will return to town via Morrison Gap Road and Queen's Road East. These arrangements will be in force between 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

II. Passengers will alight from and board Tramcars and Buses at:—

(1) The main Public entrance gate and

(2) The members entrance gate only.

III. Trucks and persons carrying large burdens will not be permitted West of Percival Street or East of Murray Road between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

IV. Pedestrians must walk on the footpaths, and not on the Roadway.

V. Vehicles must proceed at a slow speed in the vicinity of the Race Course.

VI. Vehicles will be parked in the vicinity of the Race Course as directed by the Police on duty.

VII. Dogs are not allowed on or near the Race Course. Any dog found straying is liable to be destroyed (Ordinance 1 of 1845, section 16 sub-section 3).

Note:—There will be one way traffic only in Queen's Road East from the Monument to Arsenal Street from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. The one way traffic will run from East to West.

Kennedy Road will be open to West bound traffic only from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Vehicles proceeding up Stubbs Road will proceed via Arsenal Street, Johnstone Road (Old Praya East), Wanchai Road, Morrison Hill Road and Morrison Gap Road.

PARKING OF CARS AT THE RACE COURSE.

1. The Stand at the Public entrance is reserved for P.D. owners.
2. Morrison Hill parking ground opposite Civil Service Club, and Village Road reserved for Private Cars.
3. Ventris Road reserved for Public Cars.

E. D. C. WOLFE,
Inspector General of Police.

Hong Kong, 24th Feb., 1931.

Sport Columns

WHO WILL WIN?

TO-MORROW'S CUP TIES AND LEAGUE GAMES.

[Exclusive to China Mail—By "Lineman."]

The following is a list of Home football matches to-morrow. The teams in black type may win; where no black type is shown the match may result in a draw:

ENGLISH CUP.

SUNDERLAND	v.	Exeter
West Brom.	v.	Wolves
EVERTON	v.	Southport
BIRMINGHAM	v.	Chelsea

ENGLISH LEAGUE.

Division I.

ASTON VILLA	v.	Leicester C.
BOLTON	v.	Blackburn
Grimsby	v.	M'CHESTER C.
LIVERPOOL	v.	Blackpool
Manchester U.	v.	Portsmouth
MIDDLESBRO'	v.	Leeds U.
Newcastle U.	v.	SHEFFIELD U.
West Ham	v.	ARSENAL

Division II.

Bradford	v.	Bradford C.
Burnley	v.	Plymouth
MILLWALL	v.	Barnsley
NOTTS F.	v.	Cardiff C.
OLDHAM	v.	Bristol C.
Preston	v.	Bury
S'HAMPTON	v.	Swansea
Stoke C.	v.	Charlton

Division III.—Southern.

BRENTFORD	v.	Walsall
BRIGHTON	v.	Thames
BRISTOL R.	v.	Bournemouth
Crystal Pal.	v.	Coventry
Gillingham	v.	NOTTS CO.
Luton	v.	Swindon
NEWPORT CO.	v.	Watford
N'HAMPTON	v.	Queen's P.R.
SOUTHEND	v.	Fulham
TORQUAY	v.	Norwich

Division III.—Northern.

ACCRINGTON	v.	Nelson
BARROW	v.	Hartlepools
CARLISLE	v.	Gateshead
Chesterfield	v.	Lincoln
Crewe	v.	Halifax
Rochdale	v.	Darlington
Rotherham	v.	Hull
TRANMERE	v.	Stockport
WREXHAM	v.	New Brighton
York	v.	Doncaster R.

SCOTTISH CUP.

CELTIC	v.	Aberdeen
3RD LANARK	v.	St. Mirren
Cowdenbeath	v.	MOTHERWELL
Be'ness	v.	KILMARNOCK

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.

AIRDRIE.	v.	Leith
East Fife	v.	HIBERNIANS
Hamilton	v.	Rangers
HEARTS	v.	Ayr U.
Morton	v.	Clyde

TO-MORROW'S SNIPS.

Home.

Sunderland.
Aston Villa.
Liverpool.
Middlesbro'.
Notts Forest.
Oldham.
Brentford.
Brighton.
Torquay.
Tranmere.
Hearts.

Away.

Arsenal.
Notts County.
Motherwell.
Kilmarnock.

FOOTBALL ELEVENS FOR TO-MORROW.

K.F.C. v. SOUTH CHINA—K.F.C. Ground at 4.15 p.m.

K.F.C.:—Penny; Martin, Dowman; Hedley, McKelvie, Bliss; Pile, Simpson, Gillott, Grimwood and Ianson.

K.F.C. II. v. UNIVERSITY—K.F.C. Ground at 2.45 p.m.

K.F.C. II.:—Angus (F.); Guest, Eastman; Everest, Gilchrist, Cameron; J. Williams, Whiting, Spary, Cotton and Bickford.

Reserves: Kerr, Smith, J. and A. B. Clemo.

HOCKEY.

Playing at King's Park yesterday, the K.B.S.F.P.A. were defeated by the M.G. Company (Jat Regiment) by the odd goal in three. W. Hirst netted for the home team. All the goals were scored in the first half.

Hockey League.

"Enthusiast" writes that in his letter on the subject of a Hockey League the words Hong Kong Clubs should be the Hong Kong Hockey Club.

SUNDAY MATCH.

CLUB v. SHAMEEN—U.S.R.C. Ground on Sunday, March 8, at 10.30 a.m.

Club:—G. Duncan; J. Rodger, A. R. Botelho; M. W. Turner, A. A. Dand, J. E. Noronha; H. Owen Hughes, G. E. R. Divett, R. W. Skipp, C. C. Francis and G. P. Lammert.

HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS CRICKET WEEK.

The programme for the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and the selected teams are as follow:—

Sunday (10.30 a.m.) and Monday (2 p.m.) v. K.C.C. at Kowloon.

E. J. R. Mitchell (Captain), A. C. Beck, A. Reid, K. H. Batger, R. R.

(Continued in next Column.)

Davies, G. E. R. Divett, S. V. Gittins, R. M. Wood, J. E. Richardson, H. F. Green and R. H. Griffiths.

Tuesday (1 p.m.) v. The Army—on H.K.C.C. Ground.

H. Owen Hughes (Captain), Capt. W. H. G. Goater, A. Reid, K. H. Batger, A. C. Beck, N. A. E. Mackay, S. V. Gittins, G. C. Burnett, J. E. Richardson, F. Baker and R. H. Griffiths.

Wednesday (1 p.m.) v. Combined League—on H.K.C.C. Ground.

H. Owen Hughes (Captain), Capt. W. H. G. Goater, A. Reid, K. H. Batger, A. C. Beck, N. A. E. Mackay, S. V. Gittins, G. C. Burnett, J. E. Richardson, F. Baker and R. H. Griffiths.

DERBY LOTTERY TICKET.

South China A.A. Fined.

MAGISTRATE'S RULING.

Mr. W. Schofield, at the Central Magistracy yesterday afternoon, ruled that a document claimed by officials of the South China Athletic Association to be an announcement of allotment of chances in the Derby Sweepstakes was a lottery within the meaning of the Gambling Ordinance as amended in October last.

Mr. Ho Yun-kwong, an executive official of the S.C.A.A. was summoned before his Worship as under:—

(a) that on various dates in February he was the person having the care and management of the S.C.A.A. a social Club, on the 7th floor of China Building, which premises were used for the purpose of lottery contrary to section 6 of Ordinance 2 of 1891, and (b) that on various dates in February he printed, or published, or caused to be printed or published, lottery tickets for the Hong Kong Derby contrary to the Gambling Ordinance of 1891.

Mr. H. Somerset Fitzroy (Public Prosecutor) conducted the Crown's case, together with Mr. T. H. King (Deputy Inspector General of Police), Mr. C. G. Perdue (Director of Criminal Intelligence) and Detective-Inspector A. N. Reynolds (complainant in the summonses).

Mr. M. K. Lo appeared for the defence, and emphasised the readiness of the Club to comply with the requirements of the authorities, and submitted that failure to apply for formal permission in this case was due to misunderstanding.

Mr. Fitzroy declared that he had not the slightest hesitation in holding that the document was a ticket, which was being hawked. He had received one through the post.

The Magistrate decided that the more he thought of the matter at issue, the more was he convinced that the document came within the definiton of a ticket, and the Ordinance would make it appear to be a lottery ticket.

The Crown withdrew the first summons, and his Worship, convicting on the second, imposed a fine of $10.

STATISTICS PROVE SOUTH AFRICAN SUPERIORITY

SEVEN BEST PARTNERSHIPS

MITCHELL TAKES FIELDING HONOURS WITH HAMMOND SECOND.

DUCKWORTH'S UNDERSTUDY

[By "Afrikander."]

It came as no surprise to the cricketing world when the news came through that South Africa had won the rubber in the 1930-31 series of Tests in South Africa. Those who had the pleasure of seeing them in the field in the English season of 1929 were greatly impressed by the keenness with which the youngsters set about their colossal tasks. They were undeniably the finest fielding side in England during that season and their praises were loudly acclaimed in all the sporting journals. Though not meeting with tremendous success, the youthful South African touring side gained the experience which stood them in good stead during the recent series.

Relative Positions.

The present position of the respective countries is as follows:—

	Eng. Won	S.A. Won	Dn.	Total
In S. Africa .	19	11	8	38
In England ..	9	0	7	16
Total ...	28	11	15	54

H. W. Taylor, the veteran Test player, scored his seventh century against England during the series and returned a splendid average for the five matches. Hammond scored his third century and Siedle and Mitchell both made their appearance in the lists of scorers of centuries in Test matches.

Bowling Feats.

The best bowling figures were returned by E. P. Nupen, who took 11 wickets for 150 runs in the first Test in Johannesburg. On the same ground in the second innings of the Fourth Test he claimed 6 wickets for 46 runs. C. L. Vincent, in the fifth Test in Durban, took 6 wickets for 51 runs. Only two bowlers in the England eleven stand out for mention—Peebles, who took 6 wickets for 63 runs in Johannesburg in the fourth Test, and Voce who took 5 for 58 in the third Test in Durban. Tate, though bowling very steadily, seemed to have lost his "surprise" ball, and as a consequence his best figures were 43—13—79—3 in the second Test in Cape Town.

Cameron's Fine Record.

Fielding honours go to Bruce Mitchell, who held 11 catches during the series, Hammond being second with 9, and Chapman third with 7.

Duckworth, before being injured, held eight catches and conceded only 101 extras in a total of 1,267. Cameron stumped three, caught five, and gave away 112 extras in a total of 2,142. Farrimond in the last two Tests proved an admirable understudy to Duckworth. He stumped two, caught one, and allowed but 51 runs out of 1,046.

A curious feature in the batting of the South African side was their aptitude to get out for obstruction. Tate and Peebles claimed five l.b.w. victims. Nupen, on the other hand, had no fewer than seven in his "bag" of 21 wickets.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SERIES.

1st wicket.
260 (South Africa)—Second Test.
160 (England)—Third Test.
2nd wicket.
96 (South Africa)—Fourth Test.
47 (England)—Second Test.
3rd wicket.
122 (South Africa)—First Test.
119 (England)—Fourth Test.
4th wicket.
148 (South Africa)—Second Test.
101 (England)—First Test.
5th wicket.
98 (England)—Fourth Test.
58 (South Africa)—Fourth Test.
6th wicket.
83 (South Africa)—First Test.
74 (England)—Second Test.
7th wicket.
65 (South Africa)—Fifth Test.
62 (England)—Fifth Test.
8th wicket.
21 (South Africa)—Fifth Test.
19 (England)—Second Test.
9th wicket.
38 (England)—Second Test.
11 (South Africa)—Third Test.
10th wicket.
57 (England)—Fourth Test.
45 (South Africa)—First Test.

CENTURIES.

141 —I. J. Siedle (South Africa)—Second Test.
136*—Hammond (England)—Third Test.
123 —B. Mitchell (South Africa)—Second Test.
117 —H. W. Taylor (South Africa)—Second Test.

SCORES OVER HALF-CENTURY.

93 —Hendren (England)—2nd Test.
91 —Leyland (England)—4th Test.
86 —Hendren (England)—2nd Test.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

ENGLAND v. SOUTH AFRICA. TEST AVERAGES.

BATTING.

England.	Inns	Runs	Highest Score	Not Outs	Aver.
Hammond	9	517	136*	1	64.62
Hendren	7	329	93	0	47.00
Leyland	8	300	91	1	42.85
Tate	8	192	50	1	27.42
Farrimond	3	72	35	0	24.00
R. E. S. Wyatt	9	205	54	0	22.77
M. J. Turnbull	8	148	61	1	21.14
Voce	7	75	41*	2	15.00
A. P. F. Chapman	7	75	28	0	10.71
J. C. White	5	57	23	0	10.14
I. A. R. Peebles	7	27	13*	3	6.75

The following also batted: Duckworth 0*, 4, 0; H. W. Lee 18 and 1.

South Africa.	Inns	Runs	Highest Score	Not Outs	Aver.
B. Mitchell	9	455	123	0	50.55
H. W. Taylor	7	299	117	1	49.83
I. J. Siedle	9	384	141	0	42.66
H. B. Cameron	9	242	69*	2	34.57
Q. McMillan	9	180	45*	3	30.00
R. H. Catterall	7	177	56	0	25.28
Viljoen	6	146	44	0	24.33
E. P. Nupen	5	35	12	2	11.66
H. G. Deane	3	30	15	0	10.00
S. Curnow	6	51	13	0	8.50
C. L. Vincent	8	40	18	2	6.66
X. Balaskas	3	10	7	0	3.33

The following also batted: A. J. Bell 0* 0*, 0; J. A. Christy 16 and 37; E. L. Dalton 31 and 11; Newson 10 and 0*; A. L. Quinn 3; E. Hall 0; Cochrane 4.

BOWLING.

England.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
Tate	189.2	56	341	14	24.28
Voce	250.4	65	561	23	24.39
I. A. R. Peebles	167.3	27	466	18	25.88
Hammond	109	27	240	9	26.66
J. C. White	151	43	308	10	30.80
R. E. S. Wyatt	10	2	40	1	40.00
Leyland	43	7	134	3	44.66
M. J. C. Allom	36	4	71	1	71.00

South Africa.	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
R. H. Catterall	49	7	110	7	15.71
E. P. Nupen	157.5	21	413	21	19.66
C. L. Vincent	169	47	374	18	20.77
A. J. Bell	111	24	233	7	33.28
Hall	46	7	152	4	38.00
Q. McMillan	119.4	17	409	10	40.90
X. Balaskas	27	1	111	2	55.50

The following also bowled: A. J. Christy 4—1—17—1; H. W. Taylor 8—0—13—1; I. J. Siedle 3.1—1—7—1; B. Mitchell 9—0—38—0; A. L. Quinn 19—4—42—0; Cochrane 23—5—47—0; Viljoen 8—1—23—0; Newson 22—4—41—0.

75 —Hammond (England)—4th Test.
74 —B. Mitchell (South Africa)—4th Test.
73 —B. Mitchell (South Africa)—5th Test.
72 —B. Mitchell (South Africa)—1st Test.
72 —H. W. Taylor (South Africa)—4th Test.
69*—H. B. Cameron (South Africa)—4th Test.
68 —B. Mitchell (South Africa)—4th Test.
65 —Hammond (England)—2nd Test.
64*—H. W. Taylor (South Africa)—3rd Test.
64 —Hendren (England)—4th Test.
63 —Hammond (England)—1st Test.
62 —I. J. Siedle (South Africa)—4th Test.
61 —M. J. Turnbull (England)—1st Test.
57 —Hammond (England)—2nd Test.
57 —I. J. Siedle (South Africa)—5th Test.
56 —R. H. Catterall (South Africa)—2nd Test.
54 —R. H. Catterall (South Africa)—1st Test.
54 —R. E. S. Wyatt (England)—3rd Test.
52 —Leyland (England)—2nd Test.
51 —H. B. Cameron (South Africa)—1st Test.
50 —Tate (England)—5th Test.

PAUL KONG BEATS J. W. LEONARD.

Amazing Patience of Contestants.

RUMJAHNS' SUCCESS.

Though overnight rain left the courts at the H.K.C.C. in a very soft condition, play was possible in the afternoon and further progress was made in the tennis tournament.

The attentions of the spectators were centred upon the match between Paul Kong and J. W. Leonard which was expected to provide some good tennis; but the defensive tactics and the amazing patience displayed by the contestants must have proved very disappointing to the onlookers. By reason of his greater pace, Paul Kong qualified for the third round after a shaky start.

The full results were as follow:—

Singles Championship.
Paul Kong beat J. W. Leonard 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.
Ho Ka-lau beat W. F. Edge 6-1, 6-1.
Doubles Championship.
S. A. and H. D. Rumjahn beat E. Zimmern and F. R. Zimmern 6-0, 6-1.
A. D. Humphreys and H. Owen Hughes beat D. W. Deane and W. N. Petch 6-8, 6-1, 6-4.
Club Championship.
Dr. D. J. Valentine beat D. S. Green 6-3, 6-4.
C. E. Holmes beat E. T. E. Nash 6-0, 6-1.

Our Sports Diary.

LOCAL.

LAWN TENNIS—To-day—H.K.C.C. Tournament.

GOLF—To-day—Ladies' Captain's Cup (Round), Fanling.

Sunday—Hong Doubles, Kowloon Golf Club.

March 24—Ladies' Section—Prize Giving, Fanling.

CHESS—To-day—Kowloon Chess Club Championship.

Tuesday—Kowloon Chess Club Championship.

FOOTBALL—To-morrow—First Division—Club de Recreio v. Police R.C.; Kowloon F.C. v. South China A.A.; Chinese Athletic v. Borderers; Argylls v. Navy; Club v. St. Joseph's; Second Division—Borderers v. Navy; Chinese Athletic v. St. Joseph's; South China A.A. v. Royal Artillery; Argylls v. Club; Kowloon F.C. v. University; Eastern v. Club de Recreio.

CRICKET—To-morrow—Division I.—University v. Hong Kong C.C. (L.); Kowloon C.C. v. Royal Artillery (L.); Division II.—Indian R.C. v. Kowloon C.C. (L.); Hong Kong C.C. v. Royal Engineers (L.); Club de Recreio v. Police R.C. (F.).

RACING—To-morrow, 1.30 p.m.—Annual Race Meeting, Happy Valley.

March 2, 3, 4, and 7, 11.30 a.m.—Annual Race Meeting, Happy Valley.

March 22—Fanling Hunt Club's Steeplechase Meeting.

HOCKEY—To-morrow—Caer Clark Cup—Kowloon Ladies' Hockey Club v. Diocesan Girls' School; St. Andrew's Club v. Hong Kong Ladies' Hockey Club.

HOME.

FOOTBALL—To-morrow—English Cup—Sixth Round; Scottish Cup—Fourth Round.

RUGBY FOOTBALL—To-morrow—Ireland v. Scotland, Dublin; Wales v. France, Swansea.

FOREIGN SYNDICATE'S HUGE SWEEPSTAKE.

Organiser of Stock Exchange Sweep.

PLANS NEARING COMPLETION.

London, Feb. 11.

It is learned that plans are being completed to launch a mammoth International Derby sweepstake by a syndicate working from the Continent, headed by Mr. J. J. Hamilton, the organiser of the Stock Exchange Sweep.

It is understood that tickets will be a pound sterling each. The prize fund is expected to be very large, possibly a million pounds sterling.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

INWARD MAILS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Shanghai (Seattle, Feb. 7) and Europe via Siberia (London, Feb. 7) ..... President Cleveland
Amoy ..... Takada
Manila ..... Empress of Russia

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

Japan ..... Tjipanas
Shanghai and Swatow ..... Sinkiang
Japan ..... Heiyo Maru

SUNDAY, MARCH 1.

Shanghai, Amoy and Europe via Siberia (London, Feb. 9) ..... Tjikarang
Japan ..... Chichibu Maru

MONDAY MARCH 2.

Calcutta and Straits ..... Ho Sang
Manila ..... President Lincoln

TUESDAY, MARCH 3.

Batavia ..... Tjibadak
Straits ..... Cremer
Japan and Shanghai ..... Chenonceaux

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4.

Australia and Manila ..... St. Albans.

OUTWARD MAILS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

Bangkok ..... Chinhun ..... 5 p.m.
Amoy, Shanghai and Japan ..... Tilawa ..... 5 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Aden, Egypt & Europe via Marseilles ..... Malwa (Due Marseilles, Mar. 27.)

K.P.O.	G.P.O.
Parcels .....Feb. 27, 4.30 p.m.	Parcels .....Feb. 27, 5 p.m
Registration ...Feb. 28, 9 a.m.	Registration .Feb. 28, 9.45 a.m.
Letters .....10 a.m.	Letters .....10.30 a.m.

*Manila, Rabaul, Australia and New Zealand via Brisbane .... Tanda (Due Brisbane, Mar. 17.)
Parcels .....Feb. 27, 5 p.m.
Registration .Feb. 28, 8.45 a.m.
Letters .....9.30 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

Hoihow, Pakhoi and Haiphong .. Kiungchow ..... 10 a.m.
Straits and Calcutta ..... Takada
Parcels .....Feb. 28, Noon
Letters .....1 p.m.
Saigon ..... Halvard ..... 2.30 p.m.
Manila ..... Pres. Cleveland .... 4.30 p.m.

SUNDAY MARCH 1.

Swatow, Amoy and Foochow ... Canton Maru ..... 9 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 2.

Japan, Canada, U.S.A., C. and S. America and *Europe via Victoria, B.C ..... President Lincoln (Due Victoria, B.C., Mar. 20.)
Parcels .....Mar. 2, 3 p.m.
Registration .....4.15 p.m.
Letters .....5 p.m.
Shanghai and *Europe via Siberia President Lincoln
Registration ....Mar. 2, 5 p.m.
Letters .....6 p.m
Amoy ..... Ho Sang ..... 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3.

Manila and Java via Sourabaya . Tjikarang ..... 9.30 a.m.
Hoihow and Bangkok ..... Kiangsu ..... 10.30 a.m.

*Superscribed correspondence only.

LOAN REPUDIATION.

SEQUEL TO THE PREMIER'S POLICY.

SECESSION MOVEMENT.

Sydney, Yesterday.

As a sequel to Premier Lang's loan repudiation policy, Mr. Page, supported by the Country Party in the districts concerned, is campaigning for the secession of the Riverina district in north-east New South Wales and the establishment of an independent province, to be called "New England," bounded on the north by the Queensland border, on the west by the Darling River, and on the south by the Hunter River.

It is suggested that a provisional government of the new province should be established, ready to act immediately if New South Wales defaults. It is also suggested that any special currency which New South Wales may issue should be resisted.—Reuter.

Three- Year Plan.

Melbourne, Yesterday.

The Premiers' Conference has re-affirmed the r solutions with regard to the three-year plan to deal with the financial problem, including wage reductions and a tax of three shillings and sixpence in the pound sterling on all public loans which are subject to Federal taxation.

The Conference has passed a resolution denouncing Mr. Lang's repudiation policy, while voting was equal on a resolution involving inflation, the Governments of the Commonwealth, Victoria and South Australia favouring it, while Queensland, West Australia, and Tasmania opposed.

The resolution declared that the Commonwealth Government should furnish £1,000,000 a month to provide employment on reproductive works, and £6,000,000 to provide a bounty on wheat and relieve the distress of wheat growers.

The Federal Government will introduce legislation to create an issue of fiduciary currency limited to £18,000,000, to be devoted to this purpose. Advances from the fiduciary fund will be covered by public loans.

To Create Employment.

Mr. Theodore states that the Federal Government proposes to introduce a Bill in Parliament to create a fiduciary currency to meet the emergency, and to provide funds to create employment.

The Premiers' Conference in a statement denouncing Mr. Lang's policy says his assertion that Australia is paying Great Britain £36,000,000 annually of war debts is absolutely inaccurate. Over two-thirds of this sum is necessary to meet the debts of the States, none of which has a war debt. The Commonwealth's war debt payments to Great Britain are £5,500,000 annually, in accordance with the Anglo-Australian agreement. Australia owes Great Britain and the United States £578,000,000, of which the war debt to Great Britain is now £81,000,000.

Mr. Scullin, when in England started negotiations with a view to modification of the 1921 funding agreement.—Reuter

INCREASE IN TAXES EXPLAINED.

Further Imports May Be Necessary.

NEW LOAN MOOTED.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday, the recent increase in wine and tobacco duties were duly sanctioned. The Colonial Secretary explained that the big deficit in the 1931 Estimates had made them necessary.

Further, an increase of postal rates was under consideration, and if the Colony were to carry on with its very pressing water scheme, and others of a similar vital nature, the money would have to be procured by means of a loan.

Reasons For Increases.

Introducing the motion, the Colonial Secretary said inter alia:—

The Estimates for 1931 as approved by the Legislative Council showed a deficit of $2,299,000, the dollar throughout being calculated at 1/4d. The sterling commitments of the Government for 1931 amount to £677,000, and the dollar at an average of 1/- throughout the year will mean that a further $3,388,000 must be added to the deficit—making a total deficit of $5,687,000. The method of paying Government salaries one half at 1/4d. and one half at the current rate is calculated to reduce this figure to $4,200,000; and an effort is being made to economise still further by the exclusion or postponement of approved items of expenditure, to result, it is hoped, in a saving of a further $1,000,000. The deficit would thus be reduced to $3,200,000.

Effect of Dollar Drop.

Had the dollar remained at 1/4d. the estimated deficit of $2,299,000 would have been reduced to $1,900,000 by the half and half method of paying salaries to which I have already referred, and which was introduced after the approval of the Estimates. The added deficit at the average rate of $1=1/- over the deficit at $1=1/4d. is therefore $1,300,000; and it is this sum that the Government considers it necessary to provide, with a view to restoring the position that was contemplated when the 1931 Estimates were framed and approved.

To meet this requirement, an increase in the opium prices has been already approved and published; and it is estimated that $200,000 in a full year and $166,000 in 1931 will be derived from this source. The resolution before you represents an increase in the rate on beer and kindred liquors from 40 cents to 60 cents a gallon, and a reversion for the rates on tobacco to those obtaining before the last increase which was effected in 1930. Liquors excepting beer, but including Chinese liquor imported into the Colony, keep their rates as set out in silver currency unchanged, but the ten cents per gallon rebate allowed on the export of locally distilled liquor is withdrawn.

In the cases of all alcohol and tobacco, however, the duties are to be payable on the basis of $1=1/8d and it is estimated that beers and liquors should provide an additional $350,000 during 1931, and tobacco $928,000, making due allowance for decreased consumption in both cases.

Extra Postage.

These figures however will still not meet the bill, and an increase in postal rates is under consideration, estimated to yield $166,000 in the course of 1931. The totals then become:—

Postage	$ 166,000
Opium	166,000
Beer and Alcohol	350,000
Tobacco	928,000
	$1,610,000
From which has to be deducted Military Contribution of 20 per cent.	$ 322,000
	$1,288,000

a sufficiently close approximation to the desired total to stand for the time.

Loan May Be Sought.

It is right to warn the Council that if the Colony is to continue with its waterworks scheme, admittedly an urgent necessity, and other works almost as pressing, the money will have to be procured by means of a loan; and supply will be needed for the interest and sinking fund.

The community has been, I believe, in a spirit of resignation expecting some increase in the assessed taxes, but it is proposed to keep this as a first reserve against the service of the loan when it is floated. The intention is not to raise the loan in one total sum, but to begin on an issue of Treasury Bills until it can be more clearly seen what the ultimate needs of the Colony will be.

Mr. Braga And Profiteers.

The Hon. Mr. J. P. Braga, whilst agreeing that some form of taxation was necessary in order to meet the shortage due to the drop in exchange, objected to dealers and retailers putting up prices to the consumer in anticipation of the new scale.

H. E. the Governor reminded Mr. Braga that the increased liquor duties had already taken effect.

Mr. Braga suggested that a distinctive form of label might be adopted for the new charges on wines and tobacco as distinct from wines and tobacco already taken out of bond.

H. E. the Governor said he had seen the suggestion, but thought it impracticable. The making of the new labels would defeat its own object. As to wine dealers, they were entitled to protect themselves.

The resolutions were put to the meeting, and passed.

The third reading of the Estates Duty Bill was also passed.

The Finance Committee later approved votes of $37,594, as already detailed in these columns.

STRANDING OF S.S. HIGHLAND HOPE.

Master's Licence Suspended.

LOG DESTROYED.

London, Yesterday.

The Court of Inquiry into the stranding of the liner Highland Hope last November, has found that the stranding and subsequent loss were due to failure by the master to navigate his ship in a proper seamanlike manner, and has suspended his licence for six months.

It considered the second officer remiss in his duties; and decided that the owners cannot be absolved from all blame because a master at such an age cannot be expected to stand the physical strain of commanding such a large passenger vessel.

Officer Reprimanded.

The Court severely reprimanded the chief officer for concealing the fact that he had brought the deck scrap log ashore, and for subsequently destroying the log.

The Court commended the fourth officer, Mr. Parry, for courage and resource in dealing with the situation which arose due to an accident to one of the lifeboats.—Reuter.

[The 14,000-ton British motor-liner Highland Hope went ashore on November 19, and the passengers took to the lifeboats, all being rescued subsequently. The Highland Hope struck a dangerous reef in a dense fog at four o'clock in the morning, off the coast of Portugal, and at first the captain refused to leave the bridge, hoping to save the ship, which, however, became a total loss. The Highland Hope was one of the latest accessions to the fleet of the Nelson Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., whose "Highland" line comprises a number of fine steamers.

The master, Capt. J. Jones, is 75 years of age.]

SILVER CRISIS.

LEADS TO CLOSING OF BIG SILVER MINE.

New York, Yesterday.

A message from Mexico City says the big silver mine at Mathehuala, employing 1,600 men, has closed as the result of the silver crisis, which has exhausted the company's resources. — Reuter's American Service.

EXCHANGES.

TO-DAY'S QUOTATIONS.

On London—	
Bank, wire	11
Bank, on demand	11
Bank, 4 months' sight	11 1/16
Credits, 4 months' sight	11 11/16
Documentary, 4 months' sight	11 13/16
On Paris—	
On demand	567½
Credits, 4 months' sight	607½
On New York—	
On demand	22¼
Credits, 60 days' sight	23⅜
On Bombay—	
Wire	61⅞
On demand	61⅞
On Calcutta—	
Wire	61⅞
On demand	61⅞
On Singapore—	
On demand	39⅝
On Manila—	
On demand	44⅝
On Shanghai—	
On demand	Tls. 76½
Dollars	4¼%
On Yokohama—	
On demand	45
Sovereigns (Bank's buying rate)	11½
Silver (per oz.)	12 7/16
Bar Silver in Hong Kong	Nominal.
Copper Cash	Nominal
Copper Cents	3% prem.
Rate of Native Interest	3½% p.a.
Chinese Sub. Coin	2% dis.
Hong Kong Sub. Coin	¼% dis.

LONDON EXCHANGES

Rugby, Yesterday.

Paris	123.95½
New York	4.85¾
Brussels	34.04
Geneva	25.21½
Amsterdam	12.11
Milan	92.78½
Berlin	20.44
Stockholm	18.14¾
Copenhagen	18.15¾
Oslo	18.15¾
Vienna	34.56½
Prague	164
Helsingfors	193⅛
Madrid	47.05
Lisbon	108.25
Athens	375
Bucharest	817
Rio	4 3/16
Buenos Aires	37
Montevideo	35⅛
Bombay	1/5¾
Shanghai	1/2
Hong Kong	10⅞
Yokohama	2/– 13/32
Silver Spot	12 7/16
Silver Forward	12⅜

—British Wireless Service

SEVERE SENTENCE.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF LADY OWEN.

ACTION PENDING.

Paris, Yesterday.

The sentence on Lady Owen is regarded in many quarters as too severe. Her counsel is preparing an appeal to the Court of Cassation, and is also said to be contemplating an appeal to President Doumergue to reduce the sentence by one or two years.

Anyhow it is not expected that she will serve the full term, as a year has already been spent in prison and must be taken into account.

Meanwhile it is learned that an action by Lady Owen against a film producer to return 80,000 francs advanced to him for a film in which she was to have starred as a languishing vamp, is pending before the Paris courts. According to Le Journal, parts of the film were "shot," but were not strikingly successful, and the venture was dropped.—Reuter.

[Lady (Edmee) Owen, widow of Sir Charles Owen, has been sentenced at Versailles Assizes to five years' reclusion, on a charge of attempting the murder of the wife of her former lover, Dr. Gastaud. Lady Owen is a Frenchwoman and was formerly an actress. Reclusion entails civic degradation, numerous legal disabilities and regulations, while severe strict silence is enforced.]

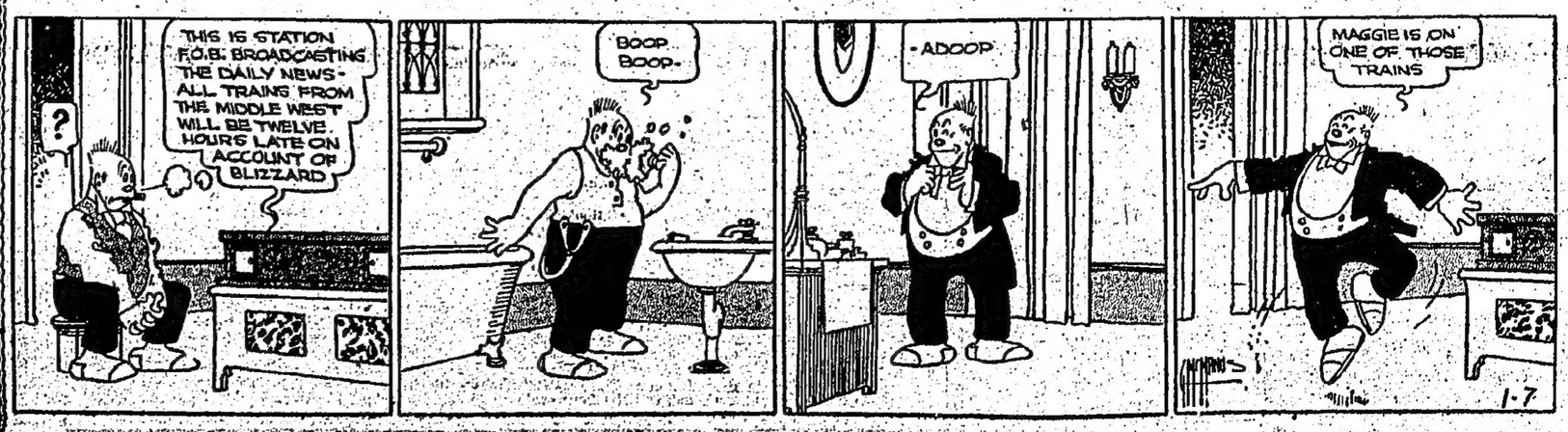
HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE

Opening Daily Official Quotations 27th Feb., 1931.

STOCK	Buyers	Sellers	Sales	Nom.	Fin. year	Last dividend and when paid	
Banks.							
Hong Kong Bank .....$	...	...	...	2160	Dec.	Final $3 bonus $1 a/c 1930 ex. 1/11—$73.14	Pending
Chartered Bank .....£	...	...	...	16½	Dec.	Interim 7/- free I/Tax a/c 1930	Sep. — 30
Mercantile Bk., A&B. £	...	...	...	23	Dec.	Int. 2½/- & 8/- a/c 1930 less I/Tax	Sep. — 30
" C. £	...	...	...	12½			
Bank of Asia .....$	116	...	...	...	Dec.	$8 for 1930	Feb 28, 31
Insurances.							
Canton Ins. .....$	1290	1300	1300	...	Dec.	Final $27 for 1928 Interim $18 a/c 1929 —$45	May 15, 30
Union Ins. .....$	...	640	645	...	Dec.	Final 16/- for 1928 Interim 24/- a/c 1929 —$3	May 30, 30
*China Underwriters...$	3.60	...	...	...	Dec.	None	...
China Fire Ins. .....$	535	...	...	...	Dec.	Final $9 bonus $6 for 1928 Interim $5 a/c 1929 —$18	May 30, 30
H. K. Fire Ins. .....$	...	1905	1905	...	Dec.	$47 for 1928	Mar. 26, 30
Shipping.							
Douglases .....$	...	28½	...	...	Dec.	Last dividend for 1924	...
H. K. Steamboats ...$	...	20¾	...	...	Dec.	$1-50 for 1929	Mar. 4, 30
Indo-China (Pref.) ...$	...	...	...	40	Dec.	12/- ex. 2/-) on preferred for 1924 and 1925	June 19, 29
" (Def.) ...$	...	...	...	30		Last dividend for 1921	...
Shell Transports ...£/-	...	...	...	72/6	Dec.	Interim 2/- Coupon No. 57 free I/Tax a/c 1930	Jan. 6, 31
Union Waterboats ...$	...	...	...	37	Dec.	$1-50 for 1929	Mar. 10, 30
Mining.							
Benguets .....$	...	...	...	10½	Dec.	Final 40 centavos making Peso 1 for 1930	Dec. 20, 30
Kailan Mining Ad. £/-	...	...	...	36/3	June	Fin. 4% free I/Tax Coupon 88 making 9% for year 30-6-30	Dec. 20, 30
Langkat .....Tls.	...	..	...	8½	Oct.	T. 0.75 for year 31-1-29	May 8, 30
S'hai Exploration...Tls.	...	...	...	2½	Dec.	None	...
" Loans .....Tls.	...	...	...	5½	Dec.	Final T. 0.45 making T. 0.60 for 1930	Feb. 6, 31
*Raubs .....$	...	...	...	40½	Mar.	Third int. 17- a/c year 31-3-31 payable	Mar. 16, 31
Venezuela Gold Fields $	3.60	...	...	...	...	.....	...
Docks, Wharves, Godowns, &c.							
H. K. & K. Wharves..$	...	...	...	178	Dec.	$9 for 1930	Pending
H. K. & W. Docks...$	30½	...	...	...	Dec.	Last dividend for 1924	...
South Ch. Motors ...$	...	...	...	10	...	.....	...
*China Providents (old)$	5.30	...	...	...	Dec.	Last dividend for 1924	...
" (new) $	2.40	...	...	...			...
Hongkews .....Tls.	274	...	...	...	Dec.	Interim T. 8 a/c 1930	Sep. 19, 30
N. Engineerings ...Tls.	5½	...	...	...	Dec.	T 0.25 for 1930	Pending
Shanghai Docks ...Tls.	110	...	...	...	Apr.	T. 7 for year 30-4-30	July 30, 30
Lands, Hotels & Buildings.							
*H. K. & S. Hotels...$	13	...	(18.15/16)		Dec.	50 cents for 1929	Apr. 7, 30
H.K. Lands .....$	85	...	85	...	Dec.	Final $5 making $1 for 1930 and $1 on new issue	Feb. 10, 31
Shanghai Lands ...Tls.	392	.	...	...	Dec.	Final T. 14 making T. 21 for 1930	Pending
Humphreys (Cum Rts.)$	16½	x.div.	...	...			
" Rights .....$	...	...	...	3	Dec.	80 cents for 1930	Feb. 24, 31
H. K. Realties .....$	9.65	...	9.70	...	Dec.	Interim 30 cents a/c 1930	Sep. 4, 30
Chinese Estates .....$	...	...	...	87	Feb.	$5 for year 28-2-30	July 21, 30
Cotton Mills.							
*Ewo Cotton .....Tls.	...	...	15.90/16)		Dec.	T 0.75 for 1930	Pending
Shanghai Cotton...Tls.	...	...	...	103	Apr. and Oct	T. 3-25 for half year 31-10-30	Nov. 29, 30
Zoong Sings .....Tls.	18	...	...	...	June	T. 0.80 for year 30-6-30	Oct. 11, 30
Public Utilities.							
*H. K. Tramways...$	18	18.10	16	...	Dec.	Final of 40 cents making 80 cents for 1930	Feb. 27, 31
Peak Trams (old) ...$	...	...	...	14½	Apr.	$6 cts. on old shrs on new for year 30-4-30	June 16, 30
" (new) ...$	...	...	...	8½			
Star Ferries .....$	88½	...	...	...	Dec.	$1 for 1930	Feb. 13, 31
*China Light .....$	24½	...	...	...	Sept.	Final 50 cts. a/c yr. 30-9-31	Dec. 15, 30
H. K. Electrics .....$	79½	...	...	...	Dec.	$2.50 for 1930	Pending
Macao " .....$	...	...	...	23	Dec	.....	...
Sandakan Lights ....$	...	...	...	12	June	None	...
H.K. Tels. fully paid $	42	...	...	...	Dec.	Final 5% making 10% a/c 1930	Pending
" part paid $	...	...	...	20½			
China Buses .....Tls.	...	...	...	19	Dec.	T. 0.93 for 1929	Feb. 25, 30
S'poreTractions(Ord.)$/-	...	6/6	...	...			
" (Pref.)$/-	...	...	...	10/-	Sept.	17½% on preference shares Subject to income tax	Feb 6, 30
Industrials.							
China Sugars .....$	...	...	...	80cts.	...	In liquidation.	...
Malabon Sugars .....$	85	...	...	...	Dec.	Pa. 3 for 1929	Apr. 11, 29
Cald: Macg. Ord....Tls.	...	...	...	11½	Dec	T. 0.50 T. 0.167 7 months 1929	Apr. 30, 30
" Pref....Tls.	...	...	...	11			
Canton Ices .....$	...	8½	...	...	July	None	...
*Cements (com.) .....$	...	...	16.70	...			
" (old) .....$	11½	...	...	...	Dec.	80 cents on old 40 cents on new for 1930	Pending
" (new) .....$	...	...	...	8.20			
H. K. Ropes .....$	14.10	...	...	...	Dec.	Last dividend for 1924	...
Stores, &c.							
Dairy Farm (old) ...$	26.10	...	(26/26)		Dec.	$1.50 for 1930	Pending
" (new) ...$	...	...	...	24½			
Watsons .....$	...	...	18.40/1)		Oct.	70 cents for year 31-1-29	Mar. 31, 30
Der A Wings .....$	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Lane Crawfords .....$	...	...	...	4	Feb.	Last dividend for year 28-2-24	...
Mackinnons .....$	...	...	...	20	Feb	$2 for year 28-2-30	May 15, 30
Sincere .....$	...	...	...	10½	...	.....	...
Wm. Powells .....$	...	...	...	2.85	Feb	25 cents for year 28-2-30	June 10, 29
Miscellaneous.							
H.K. Amuse. (C. R.) $	...	...	...	26½	Mar.	$2.50 for year 31-12-30	Sept. 27, 30
" (Rights) $	...	...	...	8½			
Ch. Entertainment ...$	15½	...	...	...	...	.....	...
H. K. Constructions...$	...	...	...	5.90	Dec.	None	...
B. Ind. G.$ Bonds ...	...	...	...	60%	...	.....	...
H. K. Govt. Loans...$	...	...	Prem.	7%	...	Interest half yearly	...

*Speculative shares. *Sales to Shanghai.

BRINGING UP FATHER



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ROUND THE CINEMAS

ALL-BRITISH TALKIE SHOWN LOCALLY.

HIGH AND LOW LIGHTS.

Special interest attaches to "Blackmail," now being shown in the Queen's Theatre, inasmuch as it is that rarity in Hong Kong, an all-British talkie. And it can be said at once that whilst it provides excellent entertainment value, and provides an interesting study of the variation in British and American talkie technique, it has definite weaknesses which might easily have been remedied with a little care on the part of the producers.

The acting itself is quite beyond reproach. Every part in the play is a careful study, and it would be unfair to make distinctions in a cast of all-round merit. In fact, the diction and the atmosphere of the film, with its glimpses of Piccadilly, the British Museum, the Embankment, Lyons Corner House, and other familiar London scenes, go almost the whole way toward its success.

Unusually skilful is the handling of the street "shots," the sound effects being most realistic. In this respect again the picture is well in advance of the average American presentation.

And now for the brickbats. The story although crude, suffices. But the action is terribly slow, and at times the machinery creaks alarmingly. It should not be necessary, for instance, for the heroine, having committed rather a clumsy murder, to devote a full five minutes (or so it seemed) to registering horror and despair. Nor is it essential that the "spicy" scene in the artist's studio should be so unduly prolonged. Its grisly finish is sufficiently obvious from the beginning. One or two flashes would have been quite sufficient.

The picture gets off to an indifferent start, with what one thought was an entirely superfluous scene, evidently intended as a prologue. Originality in treatment is always laudable, but in the present instance it is so original as to rather obscure the sequence of events.

Nevertheless, everybody will like the film. It is a very welcome change from the stereotyped trans-Atlantic drama. Its real weakness is that it was not speeded up sufficiently—a weakness that without question can easily be remedied.

The big film is preceded by a featurette" of no particular merit in which two lovers "get engaged" in true musical comedy manner.

One trusts that what is meant for a little impartial criticism will not infuriate those who agitate for British pictures at all costs.—*Tennob.*

"TRUE TO THE NAVY."

A boy's best friend may be his mother. In the case of Clara Bow, at least, a girl's best friend is her father. The red-headed "Brooklyn bonfire" gives all the credit for her screen success to her dad, who now lives with her in Hollywood.

Miss Bow's mother died when her motion picture aspirations were just beginning to take root. Having been chosen winner in a beauty contest, having won a small measure of success in one picture, Miss Bow was ready for new screen roles. None came. A long wait brought discouragement. Her father, however, took a hand, provided her with a manager, and sent her to Hollywood.

Clara Bow's early days in Hollywood prophesied little for the success she was to achieve of which "True to the Navy," now in the Central Theatre, is typical. She couldn't get a chance to display her talents. After months of fruitless searching, she wired her father that she was returning home. Instead of sending her money for her return trip, he went to Hollywood himself, and encouraged the "It" girl to keep on trying.

Given a bit in one of B. P. Schulberg's independent productions, Clara proved herself and aroused the interest of the young producer. Her success for a time was meagre, but, when Schulberg affiliated himself with Paramount, he brought Miss Bow with him. With an opportunity to show what she could do, Miss Bow "chicked" with the public as the true American "flapper."

Then Madame Elinor Glyn announced to the world that Clara Bow possessed that intangible something, called "It". Madame Glyn's screen story, with the "It" title brought fame to the little girl from Brooklyn. She went from picture to picture with ever increasing popularity.

And it is all due to Dad. Mr. Bow believed in his daughter's talents when nobody else could see them. His faith and confidence encouraged her to keep on when she wanted to quit.

"LET US BE GAY."

It takes longer to make yourself homely than attractive for the screen. Norma Shearer discovered this in making up for the opening scenes in "Let Us Be Gay" her new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer starring vehicle which will open on Sunday in the Queen's Theatre.

In these scenes Miss Shearer appears as a dowdy housewife, without cosmetical beautifiers, her hair unkempt in kid curlers, and pinch-nose spectacles supplying the finishing touch. To make herself up in this fashion, Miss Shearer found, required a half an hour longer than necessary for usual "dolling up."

Robert Z. Leonard directed the talkisation of the Rachel Crothers's play which Frances Marion adapted for the screen. Rod La Rocque plays opposite Miss Shearer, with the supporting cast including Marie Dressler, Hedda Hopper, Raymond Hackett, Sally Eilers, Gilbert, Emery and Tyrrell Davis.

"KING OF JAZZ."

By far the most colossal musical spectacle ever thrown upon any screen is the "Melting Pot" number of Universal's extravaganza, "King of Jazz," starring Paul Whiteman and his orchestra and featuring the most scintillant cast ever assembled on stage or screen, which comes to the Central Theatre in the next change of programme.

In the conception of the entire picture all the musical numbers of which are photographed in Technicolour, the imagination of John Murray Anderson, the famous New York producer, ran riot in sheer beauty.

Of the eight separated and complete musical numbers which, together with uproarious comedy sequences and clever black-outs, are built into this surpassing film, the "Melting Pot" stands out as the supreme spectacle of the ultimate symphony in lavish entertainment.

Even among the other monumental settings of the picture, all of which were designed and costumed by Herman Rosse, whose scenic effects on the New York stage have long been the delight of the nation, the "Melting Pot" eclipses them all. An enormous cauldron with a subterranean chariot chamber, broad sweeps of stairs and immense columnades, a revolving platform dressed in gold and surmounted by burnished eagles—such is the magnificence of the stage upon which the action takes place.

The "Melting Pot" number is in reality a pot-pourri of eight different sequences, each showing the fusing of the nationalities and their music in the gigantic melting-pot from which they emerge as one nation and one symphony in music—American Jazz.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"PORTO RICO" AN IMPURE COMPOUND.

Washington, Jan. 14.

The Joint Resolution to change the name of the island of Porto Rico to "Puerto Rico" is now on the House calendar for action following a favourable report from the House insular affairs committee and approval by the Senate.

Adoption of this resolution, desired by the Legislature of Porto Rico, is favoured by language experts here who claim that the name "Porto Rico" is an impure idiomatic compound formed through the word "porto," which although of Latin origin, has never been adopted in the language of the island.

Historical Lore.

Historical data reviewed in the preamble to the resolution said that the original name given to the island and consecrated in Royal Orders was Isla de San Juan.

The first city founded on Porto Rican soil, and denominated Villa de Caparra, was given the name of Ciudad de Puertorrico.

Subsequently, and by virtue of the transfer of the old Ciudad de Puertorrico to the site now occupied by the capital city, the names of San Juan and Puertorrico became the exclusive patrimony of the city and island respectively.

Immediately following the change of sovereignty in the island, the Congress of the United States, it is alleged, without justifying the reasons, officially gave the island the name of "Porto Rico."—United Press.

Income tax collections in the Dominion in the first half of the current fiscal year show an increase of $2,359,694, the total for the period from April 1 to September 30 being $65,380,305. Montreal's total was $20,424,064 and Toronto's $17,376,326. London and Vancouver followed.

Since the steamer Princess Helene was put into service on the Bay of Fundy route, on August 27, there has been an increase of 25 per cent. in the general traffic on the Saint John-Digby route.

TALKIE TALKS

by

Diana

We are promised a truly magnificent feast of good things in the first week of March. "Let us be Gay" (Shall us? Let's) in the Queen's Theatre, and "The King of Jazz" in the Central Theatre. The former is the type of drawing-room comedy we all like, Society stuff, magnificent gowns, sparkling wit, humour ad lib, a perfect cast headed by the attractive Norma Shearer, Marie Dressler, Rod La Rocque, Gilbert Emery, etc. It will

ROD LA ROCQUE

specially please the women. It may teach some of us a lesson. There is so much truth in those lines from "No, No, Nanette." "Wear flannel and keep warm, but wear crepe-de-Chine and keep your husband." Norma has a rather bitter experience. HOW did she have that husband eating out of of her hand, when she dressed up like a million dollars, and was gay? You will enjoy every moment of it; from the first reel when the delightful Norma has the courage to make herself—shall I say—so worthy? The type who might keep a good husband, but who could not keep a loving one. I admit to being especially weak where Marie Dressler is concerned. She is so truly a great artiste. It does not matter how small the part, she "Queens" it every time. Mark you every one helps in the success. The Director? Robert Z. Leonard. To the uninitiated the kudos is not given to the man with the megaphone, but those in the know realise that he makes or mars a picture, no matter how clever the artiste. It is a picture to be seen twice, so take the advice of one who knows and has seen. (Queen's).

Norma Shearer.

Another different kind of film. Revue, with the Master of the Baton—Paul Whiteman and his gallant Band, all the stars of the Universal helping to give us a wonderful show. "The Bridal Veil" with Jeanette Loff, Stanley Smith and the Markert Dancers, accompanied by orchestra, and the music by men who write melody—Milton Ager and Jack Yellen. The idea of this scene is beautiful. Bridal costumes throughout the different periods, worn by women of perfect figures, poise, and beauty. It is when we see these Mannequin types cross the stage that we realise the art of walking. It can be so awkward and it can be a thing of joy to watch. Sketch after sketch, each one as good as the other, and supreme above it all—MUSIC (I have to spell it in capitals). John Boles sings well, "It Happened in Monterey" and "The Song of the Dawn." The former with romantic settings, exquisite Spanish dancing by the Sisters "G" and George Chiles, not forgetting again the Markert Dancers. Then in the other number a cowboy chorus. Watch that lighting effect as the sky changes from grey to the glorious dawn (Strongly advise you to try getting up to see for yourself, the real thing, but do not emulate Mr. Boles; the neighbours would not like it) "Happy Feet," "Ragamuffin Romeo," AND then "The Rhapsody in Blue," everything blue, (except those who watch it), and the final with the girls on the huge piano, toe dancing, row after row of them, to the notes of the inspiring music by George Gershwin. I felt thrilled with the final act, "The Melting Pot." Picturesque dances of each nation, and Paul and his band in the supreme ensemble. Yes—as advertised—"It is an inspiration of Jazz, unapproached in any theatrical production anywhere." A talkie to be remembered. (Central).

* * *

I am the sort of person who likes to see—anyhow at a distance—life in all its aspects. That is why I enjoyed "True to the Navy." Not worthy of the greatest little artiste in her line, Clara Bow, but I was intrigued with Fredric March as the sailor. He did not exaggerate, as so many do, when they try to be the rough and ready American sailor. Harry Green annoyed me as much as he did the sailor boy, but that is the fault of the story and direction.

It takes all types to make a world, so go and see for yourself how the pretty little soda-fountain girl keeps the entire Pacific Fleet

Clara Bow.

guessing. Not many laughs, but I enjoyed it, and, in spite of the unkind things said of Clara's singing, it is what one expects from her, and I like her voice. (Central).

* * *

"Blackmail." The first all-British Talkie. That is its chief recommendation, but Elstree and its American rivals have learned much about the powers of the microphone since this was produced. It is good English. The story? Melodramatic. It is up to you to support Home industries, and it is fair of the Queen's to give the British films a showing. (Queen's).

* * *

Maurice Chevalier showed us how versatile he can be in "The Big Pond." I loved every moment of it, except that I do think, good looking though he is, he should study camera angles a little more. One would not leave home for him when he was singing in the gondola. Famous lower lip, delight of the caricaturist, was a bit too evident; he is nicer full face. Leave the profile stuff to the handsome John Barrymore. All New York support, so the names are unfamiliar. The father was the outstanding one, although a little exaggerated at times. Claudette Colbert with a really lovely speaking voice had not much opportunity. The star stole his own picture. I do not know anyone who could take it from him. (Central).

* * *

The Majestic in Kowloon promises us some first "runs". For those who live in "the place that counts," there is rather a long journey, but it will be worth it to see—Douglas Fairbanks, jun., in "The Little Accident," and the late Milton Sills with Dorothy Mackail in a strong gripping, thrilling play

Dorothy Mackail.

"His Captive Woman." I saw it in America, and it is a worth-while film—you know what I mean. "The Little Accident" will give you laughs in plenty. About a baby, result of last Summer's romance that crops up unexpectedly just as its surprised father is about to marry another girl. I need hardly add that the story is really a nice one, and takes pains to explain that the loving pair were really married that unforgettable Summer, but it had been annulled. Can't associate the fond father stuff with Douglas, jun.; but he is convincingly good, no questioning that. This boy,—he is hardly more—interests me. He is clever, he has made a name for himself, he is no longer the son of his father. Actor, artiste, poet, writer, philosopher, and husband of Joan Crawford. The boy will

Anita Page.

do big things yet. More of him in another issue, but do not miss seeing him in this little comedy. You remember Rosco Karns in "Man Trouble" (as the reporter). He and Zazu Pitts are very funny in this. Sally Blaine and Anita Page look pretty and add success to the picture. The recording in the Majestic Theatre is excellent. In "The Trailer" of "The Vagabond King" Dennis King's voice sounded as it should sound: I advise a second visit to that play; you will like it better. (Majestic).

* * *

When you see John Barrymore in his first Talkie, "General Crack," you will be as I am—a Barrymore Fan. His voice is resonant, distinct, and every word bespeaks the high intelligence behind it. This delightful asset and his handsome presence make him the most romantic figure on the screen today. In "The Show of Shows" we hear him in Gloucester's Soliloquy from Henry VI." It will make you wish to see him as Hamlet. He was a sensation in that in London, you know. Now he is to play Svengali, and I predict will be the areatest Svengali of all time. An unknown girl, Marion March, aged seventeen, will play Trilby.

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP.

Do you like this? "Life is just a Movie with God as the Star." Kay Francis has announced she will marry a film director named Eilziner. Never heard of him. It is her third attempt.

"Monte Carlo," which opens the New King's Theatre, has some tunes that will prove as popular as "Dream Lover." "Give me a Moment, Please," and Always in All Ways." Jeanette Macdonald sings beautifully, and Jack Buchanan, who showed how good he can be in "Paris," will delight us, although you are of the opinion that the part shrieks for Chevalier. Buchanan is fascinating, and his cultured English-speaking voice has as much charm as the broken French accent of Chevalier. Are we not lucky? The new theatre is a GEM—rather puts me in mind of the famous "Chinese" on Hollywood Boulevard, but not so ornate or grand. More of it later. Hollywood waited for the third death of a Movie actor in his early forties. First Lon Chaney, then Milton Sills, now Louis Wolheim. He is best remembered for his work in "All Quiet on the Western Front," but he stands out for me for his portrayal with William Boyd in "Two Arabian Knights." His ugly face was his fortune. A Master of Mathematics at Cornell University, a clever well-read man, and much liked in the profession.

Mary Eaton, of "Glorifying the American Girl" fame, is in London acting with Cecily Courtneidge and Nelson Keys.

Billie Burke (I well remember one of her first appearances in London in "The Blue Moon." (Oh, it must be over twenty years ago) is acting with Ivor Novello in his play, "The Truth Game," in New York. Quite a few British artistes there at present, including the Herbert Marshalls (Edna Best) and Isabel Jeans.

Maurice Chevalier will not act in Michael Arlens "Cavalier of the Streets." William Powell has been chosen instead. Chevalier is now in Hollywood preparing for his next picture.

Pola Negri.

Pola Negri in a sketch in English at the London Coliseum.

Jack Buchanan in his native city of Glasgow at present.

NEW YORK SAFE FOR MURDERERS.

375 Victims But No Executions.

The breakdown of the capital punishment law in New York City is being predicted by prison officials as the result of the publication of statistics recording the significant fact that, although between 350 and 375 persons have met death by violence in the metropolis last year, not one of the assailants has been executed.

Fifteen persons have died in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison since January 1, 1930, a 275 per cent. increase over the figure for 1929, but all those electrocuted were convicted in cities outside New York.

41 Years' Record.

It is remarkable that for the first time in the forty-one years' history of electrocution New York so far has failed to contribute to the death-house toll.

Following on the murders committed in the metropolis this year, seventy-six persons have been indicted for first degree murder, which carries the death penalty on conviction, sixty-nine have been arrested, one has been convicted, and six are still fugitives from justice.

Twenty-eight of the sixty-nine cases in which there have been arrests are still pending. Some of the remainder have been accorded verdicts of less than first degree murder, some have been allowed to plead on lesser charges, and others have been dismissed for lack of evidence. There have been a number of cases in which the charges have been reduced.

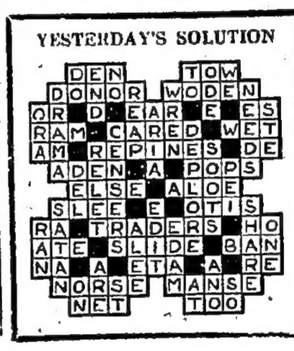
STANDARD TIMES.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN COLONY.

Sunrise and Sunset in Hong Kong for February 1931, (Standard time of the 120th Meridian, East of Greenwich) are as follows:—

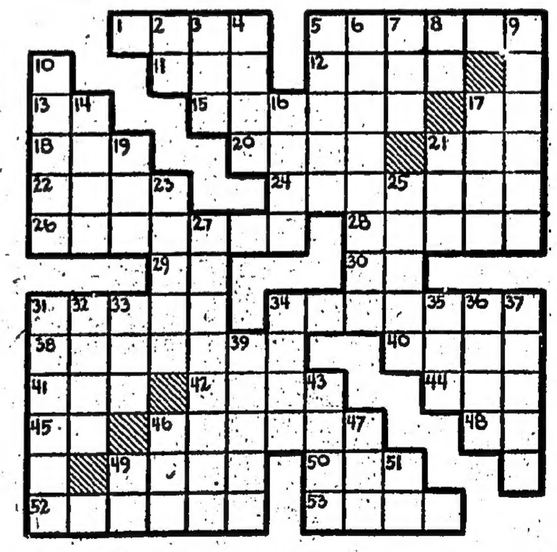
Feb.	Sunrise	Sunset
27	6.47	6.26
28	6.47	6.26

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



DAILY CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

(This cross-word puzzle has been made by an expert but our readers are warned to look out for occasional phonetic spellings, such as harbor, plow, and altho.)



HORIZONTAL
1–The rainbow
5–Agriculturist
11–Goddess of mischief (Gr. Myth.)
12–French for friend (fem.)
13–Symbol for tellurium
15–Hallowed
17–Low Latin (abbr.)
18–Wrath
20–Something lent
21–Huge snake
22–To discover
24–Very hard mineral
26–Founded upon a compact of union
28–Flat-bottomed freight-boat
29–Musical note
30–Behold
31–Precipitous
34–The nobility
38–Liveliest
40–Freezes
41–Household god

HORIZONTAL (Cont.)
42–Noted Latin poet
44–Make lace by tatting
45–Exist
48–N. W. State of the U. S.
48–Musical note
49–British seaport in Arabia
50–Mist
52–Most robust
53–A hopping reptile

VERTICAL
2–Egyptian sun-god
3–Possessive pronoun
4–Aquatic fur-bearing mammal
5–An electromagnetic unit
6–Tractable
7–Free from
8–Personal pronoun
9–To tell
10–Rigid

VERTICAL (Cont.)
14–A great American lake
16–Substance used as fuel
17–Great in length
19–Termination
21–To shut out
23–To put off
25–A native of New Zealand
27–The order of birds of prey
31–To spatter a liquid about
32–A set of players
33–Organ of hearing
34–A pedant
35–Dead
36–Any equipment
37–A natural fat
39–A happening
43–To take off, as a hat
46–Poem
47–And not
49–Short for Albert
51–To proceed

(The solution of the above cross-word puzzle will appear in to-morrow's issue along with a new cross-word puzzle.)

The China Mail

Friday, February 27, 1931.
First Moon, 11th Day.

ESTABLISHED 1845

大英曆一九三一年二月廿七號 禮拜五
中華民國辛未年元月十一日

HONG KONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1931.

LARGE STRIKES TO BE ILLEGAL.

Government Defeated on Trades Dispute Bill.

WHAT AMENDMENT MEANS.

London, Yesterday.

The House of Commons Standing Committee by 37 votes to 31 adopted the Liberal amendment to the Trade Disputes Bill, in which Conservatives combined with Liberals against the Government.

The amendment will have the effect of making most large strikes illegal. It is generally considered that it will make the Bill worthless from the Government's point of view. The Committee adjourned to allow the Government to consider whether to drop the Bill.

Declared Illegal.

By their amendment the Liberals succeeded in replacing the Government's definition of a general strike (which made sympathetic strikes possible) with a definition declaring illegal any strike which exposed the community to danger to health or safety by interfering with supplies and the distributing of essential foods, water, fuel, medical services, and other necessaries of life.

Not to Resign.

There is no question of the Government resigning as a result of its defeat. Mr. MacDonald recently stated in a public speech that he would only resign if defeated on a direct vote of censure.—Reuter.

[When the debate on the second reading of the Trades Dispute and Trades Unions Amendment Bill was resumed in the House of Commons on January 28, Mr. Winston Churchill vigorously attacked the measure. He defended the Act of 1927 passed by the Conservative Government which, he contended, still had the overwhelming approval of the mass of the nation. The proposed measure he described as bad for the country, bad for industry, and not really in the best interests of the Trade Unions.

The Solicitor-General, Sir Stafford Cripps, said that the 1927 Act did much more than was necessary or wise in placing restrictions on Trades Unions activity. The present bill would provide ample safeguards against any usurpation of power by the Unions. It would remove the sense of injustice felt by the Trades Unions and it would maintain proper and adequate safeguards against the usurpation of power by any class.]

TWO HUNDRED DIE IN HURRICANE.

Coast of Fiji Islands Devastated.

EUROPEAN POPULATION.

New York, Yesterday.

A message from Suva states that 200 persons perished during the hurricane in Fiji on Saturday.—Reuter's American Service.

Lighthouse Destroyed.

Wellington, Yesterday.

The Nadi lighthouse blown away, and a train blown off the rails at Lautoka, are among incidents of the worst hurricane and floods ever experienced in Fiji, details of which are brought by the crew of a ship from Suva.

They report that eighty persons were killed in the Ba district, and a hundred at Singatoka.—Reuter.

[Fiji, of which Suva is the capital, comprises a group of about 250 islands, about 80 of which are inhabited, lying between 15 and 22 south latitudes and 178 west. The largest is Viti Levu, which has an area of 4,053 square miles. The town of Suva is on the south coast of Viti Levu. The total European population is 1,741. The islands, which were discovered by Tasman in 1643, were ceded to Great Britain in 1874.]

WEAKNESSES IN NEW CRUISERS.

Decks and Sides Thinly Armoured.

LONG-RANGE GUNS.

New York, Yesterday.

The New York Times publishes statements declaring that the recent manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of the Panama Canal revealed weaknesses in the new 10,000 ton cruisers. They are reported to have proved unsteady at the gun platforms, due to the excessive vibration of their powerful engines and the heavy rolling.

Some experts also consider that their thinly armoured decks and sides make them very vulnerable to air attack. The Times, however, in drawing attention to their high speed, expresses the opinion that they are a great menace to hostile aircraft carriers, whose flyingdecks they would be able to wreck from long range; "Thus, if properly spaced far from the coast, they could keep off naval bombers from the most vulnerable cities on the seaboard."—Reuter's American Service.

OFFER WITHDRAWN.

MAGNATE NOT TO BUY NEW YORK PAPERS.

EMPLOYEES' REQUEST.

New York, Yesterday.

Mr. Paul Block, the American newspaper magnate, who recently made an offer of $5,000,000 for three New York papers which are up for sale—the Evening World, the Morning World, and the Sunday World—has withdrawn his offer.—Reuter's American Service.

[An earlier cable stated that employees of the three newspapers had requested the surrogate court to allow them to buy the papers.]

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